

'Hijackers do not back Abiola'

NIAMEY (R) — Gunmen holding 28 hostages on a Nigeria Airways plane in Niger have denied any links with Nigerian politician Moshoud Abiola, a minister said Tuesday. First reports when the Airbus A310 was seized Monday said the hijackers wanted Mr. Abiola appointed as president, four months after the cancellation of Nigerian elections he was set to win. But Niger's Transport Minister Abdoulaye Souley told reporters the gunmen had denied any links with Mr. Abiola, saying he was as much a pillar of the Nigerian people as former military leader Ibrahim Babangida, who turned over power in August to a military-appointed civilian government. Mr. Souley said the leader of the hijackers, who called themselves Suicide Squad C, had given his name as Kazar. He said among the 28 hostages were army officers and a member of the National Electoral Commission. Airport officials in Niger's capital said negotiations began Tuesday after an eight-hour pause.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الراي»

Mideast water talks open in Peking

PEKING (AFP) — The fourth meeting of the multilateral working group on water resources in the Middle East opened here Tuesday, with hopes high that the recent Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) rapprochement will facilitate progress. The PLO delegation, still in Hong Kong, was absent from the opening but was expected to arrive later. Participants said the PLO tardiness was because of technical reasons. The three-day meeting is the first time Peking has hosted an event related to the Middle East peace process. China pledged Monday to "continue to make its own contribution to the promotion of the Middle East peace process." No breakthroughs were expected at the meeting, but participants were optimistic that the atmosphere would improve after the PLO-Israel accord was signed last month in Washington. "We're hopeful to see some progress," said Yosef Ben Dor, coordinator of the Israeli delegation. The last round of talks, held in Geneva in April, ended in failure. The PLO blamed Israel's refusal to discuss Palestinian water rights, which Israel says should be handled under the bilateral track of the peace process. A total of 43 delegations were present for the meeting, 17 of them from the Middle East.

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Saudis demand apology from Arafat

TUNIS (AFP) — Saudi Arabia has demanded a public apology from Yasser Arafat as a condition for the normalisation of ties and resumption of aid to the Palestinians, diplomats said here Tuesday. King Fahd set the condition in response to mediation efforts by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who has been trying to patch up relations between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Gulf states. If the Egyptian reconciliation efforts succeeded, the PLO leader could visit Saudi Arabia soon, the diplomats said.

Iraqi delegation to visit Tehran

NICOSIA (AP) — An Iranian official said Tuesday that an Iraqi delegation will be visiting Tehran in the near future to continue talks on improving ties between the two former foes. The Islamic Republic News Agency, IRNA quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Zarif as saying that his Iraqi counterpart Abdul Majid Al Faisal will be visiting Tehran to follow up talks the two had in Baghdad. He did not give a date for the expected visit.

Palestinian slain

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Unknown assailants in the occupied West Bank on Monday fatally shot and stabbed a Palestinian suspected of being an informant for the Israelis. The assailants attacked Mahmoud Yaqub Salah, 59, at his home in the village of Al Hader. He was taken to Hussein hospital in nearby Bethlehem, but doctors pronounced him dead. Presidents told reporters that Salah, who ran a driving school, had been attacked several times in the past. He allegedly supplied information on Palestinian uprising activists to the Israeli army, the residents said.

Snags hit Sahara talks

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The second round of direct talks on Western Sahara between Morocco and the Polisario guerrillas has been delayed by a dispute over the composition of the Moroccan delegation, U.N. officials and diplomats said Tuesday. "There are problems, the talks have not opened yet," chief U.N. spokesman Joe Sills said during his daily news briefing. "There is a question on the composition of a delegation." He did not elaborate. Former Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, the U.N. observer to the Western Sahara talks, met separately with each side in an effort to resolve the problem.

No end seen to Kashmir siege

SRINAGAR (AP) — People paced through the streets of Srinagar buying food Wednesday as Indian forces lifted a 12-day-old curfew for a few hours in many areas of the city. Political leaders had urged the people to hold a one-day hunger strike in support of the militants and civilians who have been trapped inside Kashmir's holiest shrine since Oct. 15.

PLO presses Israel to free all detainees

Police, control of bridge and Jericho area on the negotiating table at Taba

Combined agency dispatches

TABA, Egypt — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) called on Israel Tuesday to free all remaining Palestinian prisoners as the two sides resumed autonomy talks in this Egyptian Red Sea resort.

The head of the PLO delegation, Nabil Shaath, issued a call for a general amnesty for some 12,000 Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

Asked whether he was satisfied with Israel's release of 617 Palestinian prisoners in the past 24 hours, Dr. Shaath, a close aide to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, said: "One is never satisfied until one sees all the prisoners out. It would be very difficult to say 'I'm happy to see 10,000 inside...'"

"We would like Israel to see that releasing prisoners contributes to support for the peace process, not the other way

around."

Referring to Israel's last-minute refusal to free 23 members of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), Dr. Shaath said: "These prisoners did not participate in any attack and they should not be paying for it."

Another member of the Palestinian delegation, Ziad Abu Ziad, insisted that the Sept. 13 autonomy deal signed in Washington was agreed between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples, and "not between factions."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin halted the release of members of Hamas and the fundamentalist Islamic Jihad movement after the killing of two Israeli soldiers in the Gaza Strip on Sunday.

Salim Hassan Al Zerai, the longest-serving Palestinian prisoner until his release last week after 23 years behind bars, joined the PLO delega-

tion Tuesday.

PLO officials said Mr. Zerai's presence was "symbolic," although Freith Abu Medina, a Gaza lawyer and adviser to the talks, suggested he may be proposed as a participant in a subcommittee.

Israel army radio said Dr. Shaath would ask for another 1,000 prisoners to be freed quickly. Dr. Shaath told the radio he wanted freedom for Palestinians who committed minor offences such as unfurling Palestinian flags or painting slogans on the wall.

The prisoners allowed out Monday were women, the sick, and those under 18 or older than 50, in keeping with an agreement reached in Taba last week.

The International Committee of the Red Cross says there are 12,000 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, while Mr. Rabin has put the figure at

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Parties want 'deadline' for voter-card collection extended

By Suhair Obaidat
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Five political parties Tuesday urged the Interior Ministry to extend the deadline for obtaining voters' cards in order to enable the largest number of registered voters to participate in the Nov. 8 polls.

In a letter addressed to Minister of Interior Saleh Hamad, the parties said that less than a third of the registered voters so far have collected their voting cards, without which voters cannot cast their ballot.

Ministry of Interior sources, however, say that 794,486 out of the country's 1,514 million registered voters had collected their cards by Monday noon. No figures were available Tuesday.

"In order to guarantee the largest popular participation in

the coming elections and consolidate democratic values in society, we propose that you extend the deadline for distributing voting cards" until Nov. 7, the parties said.

The letter, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times, was signed by the general secretaries of the Islamic Action Front (IAF), the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, the Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party, the Progressive Arab Ba'ath Party and the Jordan People's Democratic Party.

Reports had put the deadline at Oct. 28. Director of centres assigned to distribute voting cards said that the orders from the Ministry of Interior say the deadline is Nov. 1.

The Election Law does not specify a deadline for distributing the cards, and Ministry of

Interior officials say that the process will continue as long as possible.

In the meantime, some voters have complained that they faced unnecessary difficulties and complications when they went to collect their cards. A stamp on the family book is the clue to where a voter must collect his/her card.

Akka Secondary School for Girls and Rashid Preparatory School for Boys in Jabal Hussein (within the same premises) are two card distributing centres for third district voters.

Voters have to look for their names among lists of 32,000 names hand-written on scraps of paper stuck on cardboard and small blackboards leaning against the school's corridor walls.

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Palestinian women carry pictures of their sons, husbands and brothers jailed in Israeli prisons, during a demonstration in Gaza City Tuesday (AFP photo)

Jordan, PLO study economic formula

AMMAN (J.T.) — Coordination and cooperation between Jordan and Palestine in various economic matters were at the heart of discussion at a meeting held at the Prime Ministry Tuesday.

Co-chaired by Jawad Anani, minister of state for Prime Ministry affairs, on the Jordanian side and Mohammad Zuhdi Nashashibi on the Palestinian side, the meeting reviewed various banking activities, monetary matters, control over financial dealings, and commercial affairs between the two sides.

A statement issued after the meeting said that the discussion aimed at reaching a common formula that would determine the framework of economic cooperation between Jordan and Palestine.

Tuesday's meeting was announced earlier this month by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali.

Attending the meeting on the Jordanian side besides Dr. Anani were Dr. Fayez Tarawneh, Jordan's ambassador to the United States, Central Bank Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi, and Mohammad Saqaf, and Ahmad Mango, advisers at the His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's office.

On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by Dr. Jawad Najj, director of economic affairs at the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Al Tiyeb Abdul Rahim, Palestinian ambassador to Jordan and Omar Khatib from the Palestine embassy in Amman.

World needs 'peace education' — Majali

PARIS (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Tuesday stressed the importance of introducing "peace education" as an alternative for the "war-oriented education," which has prevailed over the past 50 years.

"Addressing the annual United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) conference, Dr. Majali said 50 years of war education had brought about more suffering, hatred, grudge and lust for revenge."

Dr. Majali said educating people on the merits of peace encourages peaceful dialogue and advances better understanding among the nations.

Moreover, he said, it can contribute to establishing peace and security.

He pointed out that peace is fostered and enhanced by respect of rights and in this context he cited Jerusalem. Dr. Majali said Jerusalem was not just a piece of land or a mere occupied territory but rather the place where history and geography meet.

"It is the place that houses the holiest Islamic, Christian and Jewish shrines," Dr. Majali said, recalling His Majesty King Hussein's call for inter-Islamic dialogue as an initial step towards crystallising a position to be followed by an inter-faith dialogue involving Christians and Jews to reach an agreement on the status of

Jerusalem and to shoulder their responsibility towards it.

Dr. Majali said: "Nothing can prevent peace if the goodwill is there."

Jordan's concept of peace, Dr. Majali said, is based on three major pillars: democracy and human rights, comprehensive security, which ushers in a safe and better future, and regional cooperation based on equality and mutual respect.

Dr. Majali noted that the education system cannot keep isolated from issues threatening human life.

He emphasised the need for a new global education and culture which can help sensitize people about global problems and enhance respect of peoples' rights to live in dignity.

He noted that international concern about basic issues, including the environment, the rights of children and women and human rights, lacks a common ethical floor and a common human behaviour. Therefore, anything short of a concerted international effort will not be able to bridge the ethical and behavioural gap between human fears and desires and daily practices, Dr. Majali said.

He stressed the importance of education in human development, saying that it has become an inherent human right, and is no longer a luxury.

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Liberals wipe out ruling party in Canada

TORONTO (Agencies) — In an election that rewrote the political map of Canada, Jean Chretien's liberals rolled to an unexpectedly strong victory and the separatist Bloc Quebecois emerged as the second most powerful party.

Prime Minister Kim Campbell's Progressive Conservatives — who won stunning victories in 1984 and 1988 under Brian Mulroney — crashed Monday, holding on to a mere two seats and leaving the party to tatters. Ms. Campbell could not even muster enough votes to retain her own seat.

In an equally stunning development, the Bloc Quebecois won enough support in French-speaking Quebec to squeak by the Reform Party, based in Alberta, to capture the privileged role of official opposition in the House of Commons.

Voters in this country of 27 million turned to Mr. Chretien because he campaigned on a promise to deal with the No. 1 issue: Creating jobs to tackle Canada's 11.2 per cent unemployment.

When the political bloodletting was over early Tuesday, Mr. Chretien's liberals had won 178 of the 295 seats in the Commons and assured themselves a majority government. The Conservatives had plunged from 155 seats to two, an unprecedented defeat. The Socialist New Democrats nearly matched them in ignominy, dropping from 43 seats to eight.

The Bloc Quebecois, which campaigned only in Quebec, swept up 54 seats, and the upstart Reform Party captured 52 seats, all but one of them in the west.

"Tonight the political landscape of Canada has been significantly altered and a different political era has begun," declared Preston Manning, the leader of Reform, which had only one member of parliament before Monday's election.

The Conservative defeat was

(Continued on page 5)

Disarrayed Jordanian leftists find themselves in a corner

By Lamis K. Andoni

FOUR YEARS after the 1989 democratisation process began, the historically leftist and pan-Arabist opposition groups find themselves up against heavy odds. They will contest the Nov. 8 elections with much less support and votes than that of either the Islamists or even the traditional, independent candidates.

The chances of "secular opposition" are weakened by a state of disarray in their ranks and the introduction of the one-person, one-vote law, which is expected to tip the balance in favour of conservative traditionalists in the

country's first multi-party elections since 1956.

The disadvantaged position of the leftist and pan-Arabist groups, which constitute more than half of the 20 registered parties, leaves the door wide open for the newly-formed right-of-centre parties, which derive support mainly from tribal and traditional structures, to emerge strongly on the political scene.

In 1989, the left and left-of-centre candidates who ran as individuals since political parties were still banned had to compete with a strong and organised Muslim Brotherhood, but were

nevertheless able to win 14 seats in the 80-member parliament.

One difference in this time around is that the leftists and pan-Arabists, who are now organised in political parties, will face an unprecedented organised tribal affiliations. This movement is viewed as a force that aims at preventing the liberalisation process from undermining its pretensions and influential status in the system.

For while the leftist and pan-Arabist parties will be effectively trying to find a bigger role within the system which marginalised them or

kept them as outsiders for at least three decades, the conservative parties represent groups that have strong influence and are entrenched in the system.

ANALYSIS

"The new conservative parties do not need new structures or even membership to ensure support because they rely on traditional structures and tribal affiliations, other than their strong influence within the system," said one analyst.

Another difference between the traditionalists, on one hand, and the leftist pan-

Arabist parties on the other, is that while the first have adapted themselves to the new programme of political liberalisation, by organising their ranks in political parties in order to enhance their already influential role, the latter had suffered serious political and organisational splits since the democratisation process started.

In fact most of the current leftist and pan-Arabist parties are splinter groups of previously clandestine parties whose ideological platforms have been shaken, if not shattered, by the collapse of communism, the decline of pan-Arabism and difficulties

associated with the transformation from underground groups to legal parties.

Their position was further complicated by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel accord, which forced them to oppose the policy of an organisation when they had strongly supported it.

Activists argue that the leftists, pan-Arabists and even the left of centre independent candidates would stand better chances if the electoral law encouraged competitions based on political affiliations and platforms.

The electoral law is repeatedly criticised for its ampli-

fication of minority and tribal affiliations and influence instead of promoting political orientations and platforms.

The introduction of the one-person, one-vote system has prompted the leftist parties to fall back on more traditional and tribal structures in an effort to boost the chance of their candidates by combining social influence and tribal affiliations with political platforms.

One potentially positive impact of the one-person, one-vote voting pattern, however, is that it could lead to serious considerations of

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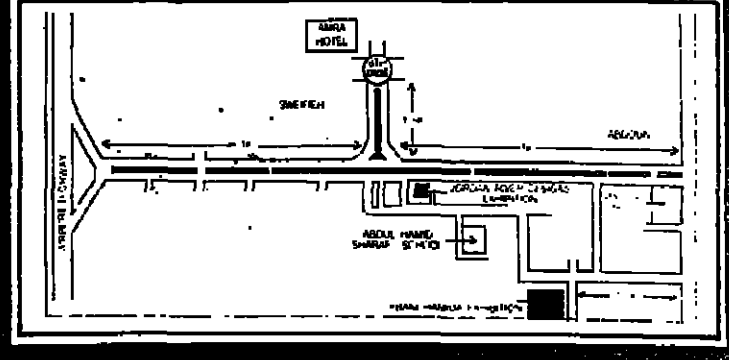
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Turks extend emergency rule in Kurdish regions

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkey's highest policy-making body has decided in favour of extending the state of emergency imposed in the southeast seven years ago in response to the insurgency by Kurdish separatists.

"The National Security Council has decided to advise the government to prolong the emergency rule for a further four months from Nov. 19," said a statement carried by the semi-official news agency Anatolia.

The council, which groups both political and military leaders, met under President Suleyman Demirel for nearly five hours to discuss the escalating insurgency by the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK).

The government almost always adopts its recommendations on the insurgency. Parliament must also approve them.

Armed forces chief General Dogan Gures told reporters after the meeting that martial law would not be required in the southeastern provinces.

Nearly 7,000 people have been killed on both sides since the PKK launched its guerrilla campaign for a Kurdish state in the southeast in 1984. The death rate seems to be rising.

In one of the latest incidents, Kurdish rebels raided a village in mountainous eastern Turkey, herded peasants into a square and killed at least 35,

Anatolia reported.

Anatolia said 15 guerrillas took part in the raid on the settlement of Yavili in Erzurum province Monday night. At least 50 people were wounded, it added.

Quoting security officials, Anatolia said the guerrillas shouted Kurdish slogans before the shooting. The gunmen escaped.

The victims included women, children and old people.

In another incident, PKK gunmen raked the occupants of a passenger bus with automatic weapons fire near Erzurum on Monday night, killing four people and injuring 12.

On Sunday a Paris group close to the PKK said Turkish troops had killed 380 Kurdish civilians in the town of Lice since Friday.

The pro-PKK newspaper Ozgur Gundem said troops flattened the town with tank and artillery fire.

Brigadier-General Bahattar Aydin, commander of Diyarbakir's paramilitary gendarmerie forces, was killed during the fight.

He was the highest-ranking Turkish officer to die in the war between the PKK and the security forces.

Turkey lifted a three-day curfew from Lice, Anatolia said.

In the fighting erupted last

Friday when rebels who infiltrated the town and dug in to surrounding hills attacked military and government buildings.

Quoting Diyarbakir Governor Ibrahim Sahin, the agency said 13 people, including the general, died in the fighting and 34 people were wounded. Anatolia said security forces searching the town house by house had detained 74 suspected insurgents.

The pro-guerrilla Kurd-Ha news agency based in Germany had claimed over the weekend that hundreds of civilians had been killed by Turkish tanks.

Anatolia said about 400 houses and 240 shops had been damaged in the fighting. The heaviest damage was to the garrison headquarters and official buildings, it said.

It quoted the governor as promising state aid for people whose houses or shops were hit.

The fighting, among the heaviest in the decade-long Kurdish insurgency, triggered the replacement of interior and defence ministers in a cabinet reshuffle on Sunday.

Over 8,000 people have died since the PKK launched a guerrilla war in 1984 for self-rule in the Kurdish-dominated southeast. Intensified fighting over the past year has accounted for a quarter of the toll.

Ministry says crime increases in S. Arabia

RIYADH (AP) — Drug trafficking, murders, rapes, kidnappings and thefts increased in Saudi Arabia last year despite government efforts to fight crime, according to a report released by the Interior Ministry.

The report said thefts had increased 78 per cent in 1992 over the number reported in 1991. It said there was a 34 per cent increase over the same period in rape and other sexual crimes such as adultery, homosexuality and child molestation.

The report, while trying to play down the increase in crime, said that Saudi Arabia has succeeded in limiting it due to the strict adherence to Sharia.

The kingdom rules by Sharia, which prescribe beheading for some criminals, cutting off the hands of thieves and stoning adulterers. Since 1987, drug smugglers and traffickers also face beheading. The penalty was applied to those crimes in an effort to curb the phenomenon that has spread with the oil boom.

No statistics on beatings were given in the report.

The Interior Ministry suggested that some of the increase in crime might be tied to the growing expatriate labour force. A census conducted by the kingdom last year estimated the number of expatriates in the kingdom at 4.6

million. The total population is 16.9 million.

The ministry noted that some of the workers are brought in by sponsors illegally and later find themselves without jobs and resort to crimes.

The report said that last year more than 3,500 drug-related cases were reported, a 4.5 per cent increase over the same period in 1990-91. More than 5,600 persons were accused in drug related offenses, it said.

During the year, over 14 million kilograms of illegal drugs were seized by customs officials, a 2.2 per cent rise over the previous year, it said.

The report detailed the types of drugs seized, such as hashish, opium, heroin, cocaine, and kat — a chewed narcotic grown mainly in neighbouring Yemen.

The number of drug pills smuggled into the country also increased more than 18 per cent over the previous year. The pills were mostly amphetamines and second.

Police authorities caught more than 25,000 criminals last year, an increase of seven per cent over the previous year. The report said that 37 per cent of the criminals were expatriates.

It said there were 9,000 theft cases in 1992, a 78 per cent increase over the previous year. Car thefts topped the list, followed by burglaries of homes.



Paris may repatriate nationals from Algeria

PARIS (Agencies) — President Francois Mitterrand has said France was examining the possibility of repatriating its citizens from Algeria following the kidnapping of three employees from its consulate and the killing of two others.

The foreign ministry said earlier that the French community in Algeria has been advised to strengthen security after the weekend kidnapping of three diplomatic employees.

Mr. Mitterrand, speaking on the France-2 network, said repatriation was a difficult option that would cast a shadow on the future of Franco-Algerian ties.

Asked what could be done to ensure the safety of the 25,000 French nationals in Algeria, Mr. Mitterrand said: "There are radical measures. The government is already thinking about bringing home all the French who would want to."

"It's a decisive method of action but one which would cause infinite problems. Are we going to be absent from Algeria? We are talking about this with the Algerian government." A further 50,000 people in Algeria have French papers but the vast majority are dual French and Algerian citizens.

Because of France's close ties with the former French territory, Paris viewed the current situation "as one of the most difficult and dramatic we have ever known," Mr. Mitterrand said.

There has been no word on the whereabouts of three French consulate-general staff who were on their way out when they were captured.

A foreign ministry spokesman said the French ambassador summoned representatives of French companies working in Algeria to remind them of security instructions.

He did not say whether the embassy had recommended that French nationals send relatives home.

Algerian authorities have vowed to make every effort to free the French nationals and thwart attacks. The government blames the attacks on Muslim fundamentalists who are stepping up their campaign to turn the country into an Islamic state.

Two Frenchmen were kidnapped and killed in west Algeria last month and last week three foreigners working for an Italian company building a pipeline were also killed.

Families of expatriate staff working for foreign firms, some of which have operated in Algeria for 20 years or so, disclosed that they had been told by their employers to leave, though neither diplomatic sources nor company management would officially confirm the move.

Muslim fundamentalists have been waging a bloody campaign against the authorities since the army intervened to cancel elections in January 1992 which the Islamic Salvation Front had been poised to win.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hamas denounces Indian attacks in Kashmir

AMMAN (AFP) — A Palestinian group Monday denounced Indian army attacks last week which killed 51 Muslim demonstrators in Kashmir. In a statement received by AFP in Amman, the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas said it "condemns the savage attack and random shooting of Muslim civilians, which constitute an attack on all the world's Muslims." Hamas, a powerful hardline force in the occupied territories, called on the Indian government to "stop these attacks on Muslims, lift the siege imposed on their mosque and recognise their right to self-determination." The group is opposed to peace with Israel and claimed responsibility for killing two Israeli soldiers on Sunday. India slapped down a curfew on Kashmir after last Friday's violence, when soldiers killed 51 demonstrators who were trying to march towards a mosque where some 50 radicals remain holed up.

Amnesty warns West against expelling Afghans

LONDON (AFP) — The human rights watchdog Amnesty International on Tuesday warned Western governments about refusing political asylum to Afghan refugees. Amnesty said Afghans forced to return to the Islamic state of Afghanistan which supplanted former President Najibullah's communist regime in April 1992 "could become the target of serious human rights violations." "Governments in Europe, North America and other countries 'appear to be ignoring the appalling human rights situation in Afghanistan and hundreds of Afghan asylum-seekers are at risk of being forcibly returned,'" Amnesty said. "Many governments are labouring under the illusion that the change of government in Afghanistan has eliminated the risks that Afghan asylum seekers face, when in reality new groups have been targeted for arbitrary arrest, rape and even death." It said one Afghan had been forcibly returned to Kabul from Denmark, so upsetting other Afghan asylum seekers there that they went on hunger strike. Canada was also considering deportations, Amnesty said. "Many Afghan asylum seekers could become the target of serious human rights violations if forcibly returned, and governments must take responsibility for protecting them."

King Hassan consults on new government

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco conferred on Monday with leaders of four centrist parties to discuss formation of a new government, a palace statement said. The statement said he told them of a proposal he made to leaders of four opposition parties Friday when he invited them to join the next government. Opposition parties have said they would hand the king a memorandum replying to his invitation. A spokesman said a decision would be taken during a series of joint meetings which began in Rabat Monday. King Hassan has said he will form a government based on the parliamentary majority but legislative elections held this year produced a hung parliament. The centre-right parties received by the king had an absolute majority in the previous chamber of representatives, but this time round they have only 154 out of the 333 seats. They are the Constitutional Union (UC), the rural-based People's Movement and its rival the National People's Movement, and the National Democratic Party (PND). Four opposition parties, the old-guard Nationalist Islamic Party, the Socialist Union of People's Forces (USFP), the Party of Progress and Socialism (PPS) and the Organisation for Democracy and Action (OADP), won 122 seats.

Syrian warships fire missiles in exercise

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syrian naval vessels fired missiles at practice targets in the Mediterranean on Monday as part of a training exercise. Syria's official news agency said the participating warships fired missiles that hit targets meant to simulate enemy vessels on the high seas. The exercise was observed by Minister of Defence Mustafa Tlas, deputy Chief of Staff Ali Aslan and a number of army officers, the news agency said.

Mubarak finds car door locked

WASHINGTON (AP) — When it came time for President Bill Clinton to show his guest the door, it would not open. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, leaving the White House after a meeting, a news conference and lunch, shook hands with Mr. Clinton and walked the red carpet to the waiting limousine. But his door was jammed or locked shut. A U.S. Marine jerked the door handle again and again, before getting help from a White House aide. Mr. Mubarak finally walked around the limousine and entered the other side. Pointing to the jammed door and laughing, Mr. Clinton said jokingly, "At least you're safe in there. Nobody can get in there." It was a tense day for security personnel. Aware that Mr. Mubarak may be a target for foes of Middle East peace, U.S. officials ordered extraordinary security measures. Concrete barricades closed Pennsylvania Avenue off to traffic in front of the White House and extra police rimmed the area. Pedestrians could not walk on the sidewalk outside the White House while Mr. Mubarak was arriving and leaving, as they usually do. Mr. Clinton said the extra caution was "at a level we thought was appropriate because of all the obvious tensions that surround the whole Middle East peace process." He did not say whether a specific threat prompted the increased security. "We consider President Mubarak a valuable asset," the president said. "We just wanted to go out of our way to make sure that he felt secure here in our nation."

Sweden supports Norwegian protest at Iran

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — The Swedish foreign ministry called in Iran's ambassador to Stockholm Monday to add its voice to a Norwegian protest over the death sentence passed against British author Salman Rushdie. Hossein Panahiazar was told Sweden believed a call to kill the author over his allegedly blasphemous novel "The Satanic Verses" was unacceptable. Stockholm called on Tehran to distance itself from the religious decree pronounced in 1989 by Iran's late spiritual leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, calling for Mr. Rushdie's death and to take steps to ensure the sentence was not carried out.

Thais accuse U.S. of lack of help on Libya shelter charge

BANGKOK (R) — The United States has warned Thailand that Thai companies are now the principal foreign contractors involved in building chemical weapons plants in Libya, according to American and Thai officials.

A report on Tuesday in the New York Times said a Thai company had acknowledged it designed and was overseeing construction of two large tunnels in Libya to be used as "civilian bomb shelters" and had been asked to design three similar ones.

The Times quoted American officials as saying the two tunnels were being built for the production and storage of nerve gas and other chemical weapons.

Senior Thai officials said on Tuesday the United States had not provided evidence to help them investigate the charges.

"U.S. officials claimed to have information about Thai workers involved in building

chemical plants in Libya but they failed to provide us with the evidence or information," a senior government official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters.

He said Bangkok had no independent information about the alleged Thai involvement.

The official said a councillor of the American embassy in Bangkok had verbally informed the Thais that Washington had information about 200 Thai workers building a chemical weapons plant but almost two months later had not fulfilled a promise to send officials to cooperate on the matter.

"Without evidence to prove that those workers are involved in working in a chemical plant, we can do nothing to bring them back or to end the allegedly illegal work," he said.

Earlier this month Thai police said they had arrested a

Thai construction-firm owner on charges of illegally sending workers to Libya to build giant underground shelters that the U.S. intelligence community suspected were for chemical weapons production.

Viroj Sakulmitit was arrested on Oct. 14 at the office of his W.M. Co. in the northern city of Chiang Mai on the orders of Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai and Interior Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh.

The commander of the police's crime suppression division, Major-General Luan Parnrothip, told reporters he ordered the arrest after U.S. intelligence told the Foreign Ministry it believed the shelters were to be used for producing chemical weapons.

Police said Mr. Viroj admitted that about 60 Thais were helping his company construct underground "bomb shelters" in Libya but said he had never sent or taken any Thais to work there.

He said that he had been contracted through a Libyan firm to design and build the shelters for the Libyan government about two years ago. Each shelter, 15 metres wide and 110 metres long, was buried 50 metres underground, usually below a mountain.

Police quoted Mr. Viroj as saying he had been visited by a U.S. official he suspected of being an agent of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and asked about his business in Libya.

They said he considered the project an honest job for his firm, which builds condominiums in Thailand. He said it did not violate Thai law and how the shelters were used was not his concern.

The Thai government should feel proud that a Thai company was able to do such difficult work overseas, police quoted him as saying.

Thai officials on Tuesday quoted Mr. Viroj and other Thai contractors as saying 25,000 Thais were working in Libya.

Mr. Viroj was released on bail on Oct. 15 and was unavailable for comment on Tuesday.

Libya cuts itself off

Libya cut itself off from the rest of the world Tuesday as a mark of mourning for victims of Italian colonial rule, the official news agency, JANA, reported.

Libya's international telecommunications were suspended at 6:00 a.m. (0500 GMT) and were not due to be restored until 6:00 p.m. (1700 GMT).

Meanwhile the Libyan embassy in Rome asked the Italian authorities to pay compensation for the period of colonial rule from 1911 to 1942.

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Battle Somali-style is all in the family

By Michelle Fani
The Associated Press

MOGADISHU — Women shrieked with joy and jiggled a victory dance and children clapped in delight as the teenager's bullet found its mark Monday. A man fell 100 metres up the road.

"Come here, come here, we want to see you," one woman taunted, pulling a pink veil from her head and flicking it with a bullfighter's flourish towards incoming gunfire.

Going into battle Somali-style involves the entire family. Monday's fight was between two of the extended "families" in the Hawiye clan: Mohammed Farah Aided's Habre-Gedir and archrival Ali Mahdi Mohammad's Agbi.

Behind Mogadishu's bombed-out library, dozens of veiled girls and women, toothless old women and agile white-haired men fol-

lowed teenage fighters towards the dividing green line that Mr. Ali Mahdi's people were trying to cross into General Aided's territory.

Crackles and booms electrified the air as the two sides exchanged dozens of rounds from Soviet-made AK-47 assault rifles, American M-16s and SAR-80s, and the rocket-propelled grenades that are a favoured weapon here.

The group, perhaps 60 members in all, paused for a moment then continued towards the shooting, one man holding the hand of a boy who looked no older than three.

"We are not fighting them. We don't want to create trouble. We are only acting in self-defence," said a clan elder, Abdullaydir Sheikh Ali, as he scrambled over the rubble from an earlier battle. The group advanced, clinging to the sides of a wall.

The pink-shrouded woman took cover, behind a large

tree trunk, peered out to select a target, then yelled directions to the teenage son crouched at her feet, his eye glued to the sights of an M-16.

Girls moved from tree to tree, offering the gunmen water from plastic jugs.

They urged one young man to fire a rocket-propelled grenade. Self-importantly, he cleared the space behind him, then let fly with a deafening whoosh.

The girls grabbed each other and danced in a circle. Other children clapped.

Kids then started a new game, egging each other on to sprint across the street in defiance of the snipers.

They squealed with laughter while women chattered excitedly and men shouted orders, making almost enough noise to drown out the gunshots.

Two U.S. army helicopters, a Black Hawk and a Cobra, droned overhead, surveying the fighting but fol-

lowing U.N. orders that forbid them to intervene in clan clashes unless troops are in danger.

The presence of women and children in the raucous street battles presents problems for the U.N. peacekeeping force. Some have been used as shields on the front lines. "Certainly that's a consideration that the UNOSOM (U.N. Operations in Somalia) troops have been faced with for sometime," said Captain Tim McDavitt of New Zealand, a U.N. spokesman.

Women have also been used to smuggle arms, which they hide under their voluminous robes. The U.N. force includes thousands of Muslim soldiers, who refuse to search females.

In Monday's fight, six girls sitting under a tree a couple hundred metres from the shooting broke into song: "Aided don't tire. Your people are behind you. You

will be king."

They flirited with 16-year-old Omar Mohammad Jimal as he took a break, his arms drooped casually over the rifle stretched across his shoulders.

"We're going to teach them a real lesson this time," he boasted.

An older man looked at a journalist and shrugged.

"They are not serious. This is just boys playing with their guns," he said, recalling tank battles in the three-year civil war that devastated Mogadishu's centre, including the national theatre and, across the way, the national museum of Somalia with its graceful arches.

At the intersection, a bullet hit a young boy, maybe nine or 10 years old, in the leg. People stopped only long enough to get the child into a car and off to the hospital.

Then the kids went back to playing their game, and the snipers resumed their.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Ordy
18:00 Le Vagabond Des Mers
19:00 News in French
19:15 Le Journal De L'Histoire
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Head of the Class
21:10 Viewpoint 92
22:00 News in English
22:20 A Woman Named Jackie

PRAYER TIMES

04:26 Fajr
05:44 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:20 Dhuhr
16:27 Asr
18:26 Maghrib
18:13 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifield, Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 63051. Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 804328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 664195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 673691.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

There will be a gradual drop in temperatures with clouds appearing at different altitudes. There will be a chance for scattered showers and winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with a chance for scattered showers. Winds will be southerly moderate and seas calm.

Min/Max. temp.
Amman 17 / 28
Aqaba 23 / 35
Dworts 13 / 31
Jordan Valley 20 / 34

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 23 per cent. Aqaba 42 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ahmad Othman 786394
Dr. Adnan Zaidoun 898140
Dr. Fakher Al Bittoosi 663412
Dr. Yousef Abdo 664916
Firm pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 776336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nasrallah pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637640
Nasrallah pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 647632

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Khalili 277757
Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Rajeh Saqr 901290

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63031
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Amman Municipality 661111
Complaints 661111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Recap Police 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 773111
Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/332
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ama 642816
Alkhalidi Maternity, J. Ama 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mushter Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/77
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664166
Al-Ahli, Abdali 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Arm. B.Marks 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602340/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital 09/983233
Zarga National Hospital 09/900560
Ibn Sina Hospital 09/986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital 09/909990

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:00 Jeddah (RJ)
09:10 Larnaca (RJ)
10:30 London (RJ)
16:55 Frankfurt (RJ)
17:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:25 Istanbul (RJ)
17:30 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
18:10 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
18:10 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:30 Rome (RJ)
10:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
10:30 Berlin, London (RJ)
10:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:40 Istanbul (RJ)
19:30 Colombo (RJ)
19:45 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
20:00 Riyadh (RJ)
20:10 New Delhi (RJ)
20:30 Aden (RJ)
21:00 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
22:45 Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:05 Rome (AZ)
08:15 Beirut (ME)
11:30 Sanaa (YU)
12:30 Cairo (MS)
13:30 Abu Dhabi (GF)

HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:30 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upperflower price in lbs per kg.

Apple 850/500
Banana 680
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Beans 600 / 600
Cabbage 140 / 80
Carrot 340/250
Cauliflower 280 / 200
Cucumber 250 / 200
Cucumbers (large) 130 / 90
Cucumbers (small) 280 / 200
Eggplant 230 / 200
Garlic 900 / 600
Grapes 550/250
Grapefruit 200/150
Guava 380 / 200
Lemon 120 / 80
Marrow (large) 120 / 80
Marrow (small) 250 / 200
Melukhia 300 / 200
Olives (green) 300/300
Onion (dry) 240 / 180
Pepper (hot) 240 / 180
Pepper (sweet) 200 / 140
Potato 480 / 300
Tomato 130 / 50
Spinach 300 / 200

German education, science minister arrives for talks with officials

AMMAN (J.T.) — German Minister of Education and Science Rainer Ortleb arrived in Amman Tuesday for talks on promoting education, scientific and cultural cooperation.

The German embassy here said that Professor Ortleb will meet with Minister of Planning and Economic Development Fariz, the acting Minister of Higher Education, Royal Scientific Society (RSS) President Hani Mulki, University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharbeh, Senator Najib Al Rashid and members of the founding committee of the Centre for the Study of Freedom, democracy and Human Rights.

According to an embassy official, there are at least 3,000 Jordanian students, the largest group from any Arab country, currently studying at German universities.

Each year, said the official, Germany grants 18 to 20 scholarships to graduates from Jordanian universities to continue their studies in Germany and offers short term visits to Jordanian scientists and researchers to work at German research centres and laboratories.

He said the scholarships are offered through the German Fund for Academic Exchange Services (DAAD).

In addition, students excelling in German language courses at the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University are granted tours of German cultural centres.

Apart from talks with Jordanian officials, Professor Ortleb plans to visit the RSS Mechanical Design and Engineering Department, which was partially set up with German aid in the late 1970s.

He will also visit the Jordan Centre for Veterinary Vaccines at Yajouz which was established with German funding.

Professor Ortleb's four-day visit will include a trip to Petra, added the official.

The German minister, who came to Jordan following a visit to Kuwait, received his doctorate in Technical Sciences from the University of Rostock in 1983.



Rainer Ortleb

He was the last chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party of Germany (LDPD) and the Federation of Free Democrats (BFD), and a member of the Volkskammer in former East Germany.

Professor Ortleb has served in his current ministerial post since 1991.

King receives credentials of 9 new foreign envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received the credentials of nine new ambassadors to Jordan. The new envoys are Ahmad Dastmalchian of Iran, Peter Robert Hinchcliff of the United Kingdom, Al Hasheemi Qaddouri of Algeria, Y.J. Dayananda of Sri Lanka, Ibrahim Kaba of Liberia, Tishoma Toga Chan-

ga of Ethiopia, Sultan Bakir of Malaysia, Rafael Sinos of the Philippines and Muhtar Ould Mousa of Mauritania. Attending the ceremony, which was held at Raghdan Palace, were Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, King Hussein's advisor Yanal Hikmat and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sataan Al Hassan.



Scholar sees PLO-Israel accord leading to a Palestinian state

Crown Prince says Gaza-Jericho plan is first step

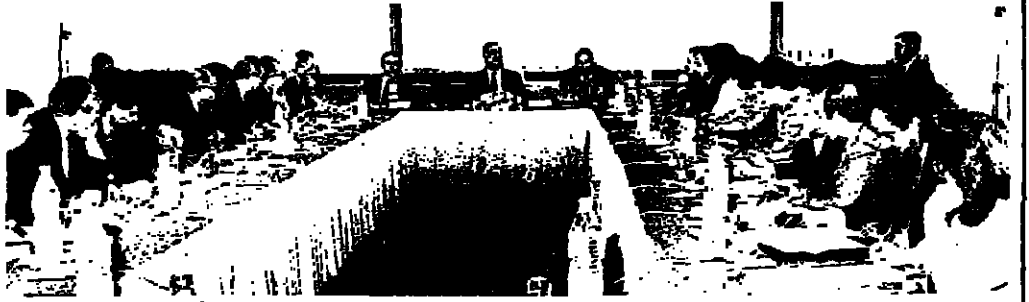
AMMAN (Petra) — Saeed Najjar, President of Al Nidaa Al Jaddid Society in Egypt, Tuesday said that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel accord signed in Washington on Sept. 13 was a new beginning that would eventually lead to the creation of a Palestinian state.

Speaking at an Arab Thought Forum (ATF) meeting in Amman, which began Monday, Dr. Najjar said the dynamism of the peace process, together with the interests of the concerned parties, would speed up the conclusion of a peace settlement along all the Israeli-Arab tracks.

Should this happen it would result in a comprehensive peace that would require ending the Arab boycott of Israel, added Dr. Najjar in his working paper presented to the meeting.

Following the termination of the boycott, there will be trade exchanges, but these would have to be conducted on equal terms and in accordance with the provisions of international laws governing such trade, and depend on the power of competitiveness of goods, Dr. Najjar said.

Fears of Israeli hegemony or Jewish funds dominating the Arab economy as a result of free investments in the



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thought Forum meeting of Arab Jordanian intellectuals and politicians (Petra photo)

region are groundless since the Israelis lack the capital to achieve this goal, Dr. Najjar maintained.

Referring to future regional economic cooperation, Dr. Najjar said it would follow the pattern of the free trade system applied in Europe, and there could be arrangements for a unified customs system similar to that currently applied by the members of the European Community (EC).

But he said that many difficulties exist concerning a future free trade zone because of the disparity in economic development between Israel and many Arab countries.

Such difficulties, he continued, require that the first step be the development of Palestinian-Israeli economic relations, followed by de-

velopment of economic links between Palestine and Jordan in a second stage.

Commenting on Dr. Najjar's paper, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who chaired the meeting, said the PLO-Israel accord included the Gaza-Jericho first plan, which means that there will be a second, third and fourth step in a gradual movement towards the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace.

Prince Hassan said that financing of projects for development of the region should target the entire region.

Referring to Jordan's contributions, the Crown Prince said that by keeping the bridges open to the occupied West Bank since its occupation in 1967, the Kingdom

has made a major contribution towards safeguarding the Arab character of Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

On ending the economic boycott of Israel, he said that perhaps an objective discussion of this issue could be the right approach towards a regional formula for economic cooperation.

Prince Hassan said the boycott is a byproduct of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and after the conflict has been settled the boycott rules will be dealt with accordingly.

In a remark about the PLO-Israel accord, Prince Hassan said that political celebrations would not have any effect after a while, unless the accord is translated into an objective and practical economic formula.

ESCWA promotes statistical work

AMMAN (J.T.) — Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Executive Secretary Sabah Bakjaji Tuesday said that because statistics play a major role in national, regional and international development, ESCWA seeks to help its 13 member states in promoting data gathering and analysis to attain that goal.

Addressing a fourth meeting in Amman by chiefs of statistical organs in the ESCWA region, Dr. Bakjaji said that more accurate statistics result in better plans and policies for development.

This fourth meeting aims at achieving further cooperation and coordination in statistical programmes among the countries of the region on the one hand, and between these countries and the Statistical Division of ESCWA on the other, said Dr. Bakjaji at the opening session of the three-day parley.

With a view to boosting the human resources involved in statistics, said Dr. Bakjaji, ESCWA plans training programmes for its member states' personnel and sufficient funding for such programmes.

Referring to the previous three meetings, Dr. Bakjaji said that the work was vital to the Arab Nation.

These meetings dealt with population and migrations, as well as with agricultural and environmental statistics and national accounts, and statistics related to women and households.

ESCWA said in a statement Tuesday that the meeting will also review ESCWA's statistical division programme for 1994 and 1995.

WHAT'S ON EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of ceramics and coloured glass by artists Khalid Mahafzah and Basel Tarawneh at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Jewish gems by Paula Williams-Brown and portraits by Ahmad Ismail at the Gallery Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental (8:00 a.m. - 7 p.m. daily, except Friday).

★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Muktadad Al Mukhtar entitled "Colours on Black Paper" at La Cas Exhibition Hall (5th Circle).

★ Photo and painting exhibition on environment at the University of Jordan Exhibition Hall.

★ Art exhibition by artist Sabah Hadidi at the Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

★ Art exhibition entitled "The Spirit of the Youth" by artist Muhammad Al Lahham at the Baladna Art Gallery.

★ Art exhibition by artist Farouq Lambaz at the Alia Art Gallery.

★ The Petra Exhibition — a presentation of the activities of Jordanian and international institutions involved in archaeological, ethnographic and environmental research in the Petra region at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Art exhibition by artists Mahmoud Taha and Salman Abbas at Ab'ad Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of etchings by Muhammad Omar Khalil at Darat Al Funn of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lawzeh. Also showing the permanent exhibition. Telephone 643251/2.

وزارة الأشغال العامة والإسكان دائرة العطاءات الحكومية

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS & HOUSING
GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATE



THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN Ministry of Public Works and Housing Government Tenders Directorate

Invitation to contractors for pre-qualification to construct Ras Al Naqab-Aqaba back road junction highway sections I & II

International contractors specialised in construction of roads and local contractors first class in the field of roads, are requested to contact the Government Tenders Directorate at the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, Amman, Jordan, to receive the pre-qualification forms and documents starting from Oct. 30, 1993, in accordance with the following terms:

1. Project Description
The construction works are divided into two separate contract packages.

Contract Package 1
The work comprises the construction, completion and maintenance of approximately forty three (43) kms (14 kms 4-lanes and 29 kms 2-lanes) of primary highway between station 14+250 and station 57+000. The highway traverses mountainous and rolling terrain and includes four bridges and one pedestrian underpass, drainage structures, earthworks, bases, pavement and all other miscellaneous items. This section will be partially financed by IERD.

Contract Package 2
The work comprises the construction, completion and maintenance of approximately twenty eight (28) kms (17 kms 4-lanes and 11 kms 2-lanes) of primary highway between station 57+000 and station 85+165.166. The highway traverses mountainous and rolling terrain, includes drainage structures, earthworks, bases, pavement and all other miscellaneous items and widening and reconditioning of approximately twenty (20) kilometres of the old Aqaba Road for the purpose of providing a detour during construction. This section will be partially financed by EIB.

2. Sources of Funding
1. The government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has applied for loans from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, hereinafter referred to as the IBRD and the European Investment Bank, hereinafter referred to as EIB in various currencies towards the cost of the Third Transport Project and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of these loans to eligible payments under the contracts for which this invitation for pre-qualification is issued.

2. The Ministry of Public Works and Housing (MPWH), hereinafter the employer, intends to pre-qualify contractors for the following works under this project, Ras Al Naqab-Aqaba back road junction highway section I & II to be financed by IBRD & EIB in parallel.

3. Pre-qualification Documents
3.1 Interested eligible contractors may obtain the pre-qualification documents at the MPWH, the Government Tenders Directorate, P.O. Box 1220, Amman, Jordan, Tel: 68481, Fax 606751, against a non-refundable fee of JD 100 (US\$ 150).
3.2 Submission of completed forms (in duplicate) shall be at the office of Government Tenders Directorate/Ministry of Public Works and Housing at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 15, 1993.

International contractors are encouraged to associate or sub-contract with local contractors for the purpose of carrying out this work as knowledge about local condition, language and price is essential in carrying out the works.

General Director
Eng. Basheer Al Jaghbeer

UNRWA chief denies card replacements are linked to refugees' compensation

By Ella Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — UNRWA Affairs Director in Jordan Dennis Brown Tuesday denied that a process of replacing Palestinian refugee registration cards was connected to their right to compensation according to U.N. Resolution 194.

UNRWA (the United Nations Relief and Works Agency) began issuing the new cards in January, said Mr. Brown. He explained that the new cards contain the name of the head of the family and the number of dependents, information that was not specified on the old cards.

Mr. Brown, who was speaking at an Amman Rotary Club luncheon at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel, said "the use of compensation seems to be in a frenzy in Jordan now."

days and my office has been inundated with requests to update records in order to receive compensation."

"As soon as the agency started replacing the cards, many refugees assumed that the new cards were connected to compensation, but that is completely untrue," said Mr. Brown.

According to the UNRWA director, many people even began speculating on the amount of compensation.

"Recent, completely unfounded rumours were that each family would receive \$50,000, or that each individual would receive \$10,000," he said.

"I did a simple mathematical calculation and found that the amount of money needed to compensate 1.8 million registered refugees in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, based on

those figures, would be between \$10 and \$20 billion," continued Mr. Brown.

He said anyone who is aware of how difficult it was to secure the recent pledges by the donor nations in Washington for \$2.5 billion in aid will quickly realise that such sums of money are unrealistic.

Mr. Brown explained that according to U.N. Resolution 194 of December 1948, "refugees wishing to return to their homes and live in peace with their neighbours should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return and for the loss or damage to property which, under principles of international law or in equity, should be made good by the governments or authorities responsible."

He added that although there have been multilateral discussions on refugees held in Canada, Norway and Tunisia, these have not begun to define terms and numbers until more progress has been made on the bilateral track of the Middle East talks.

"Since neither the right of return nor compensation has occurred, UNRWA has been and will continue to carry out its task of providing education, health and relief services to the expanding refugee population now numbering 2.8 million," stressed Mr. Brown.

Asked about those who are considered Palestinian refugees, Mr. Brown said that according to the agency "refugees are Palestinians who have been resident in Palestine for two years preceding the

1948 Arab-Israeli war and who had lost their homes, and livelihoods as a result of that war, and their descendants, who settled in Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon."

He added that regardless of their place of residence, whether in refugee camps or in towns, and that they hold Jordanian passports, nothing changes their status as refugees.

In a later remark, Mr. Brown dismissed reports that the agency was planning to terminate services noting that the refugees' annual growth by about 3.5 per cent calls for the expansion of services and more efforts to increase donor contributions. He said, he believed it would take probably five years before matters become clear on a final settle-

ment of the refugee problem. Asked about the agency's involvement in the ongoing peace process, Mr. Brown said that UNRWA has been taking part in the multilateral meeting on refugees in Tunisia and has recently been involved in expanded projects in the Gaza Strip, ahead of the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho first plan.

Mr. Brown said there are many difficult decisions ahead for the participants in the peace process, and in the end it will be impossible to please all the refugees.

He said one can only hope that for Jordan, which has "graciously hosted the largest group of refugees," there will be a fair solution and not one leaving the Palestinian residents feeling cheated and disappointed.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
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مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

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Director General:
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Jordan Times advertising department.

Crisis over crises

IN AN article that appeared in the New York Times on Oct. 24, U.S. representative David McCloskey called on Secretary of State Warren Christopher to resign for "damaging (American) national interest" through his handling of "crises in the former Yugoslavia, Somalia, Russia and Haiti." Representative McCloskey is not an outsider, he is a Democrat and a member of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee. However, the mismanagement of the U.S. foreign policy is not only a trait of the Democrats. Fact is they inherited most of what is at hand from the rival Republicans. And ever since the Americans blundered in Vietnam in the 1960s, their foreign policy, and especially their intervention in hot spots around the world, seems to leave behind only more conflict and crisis.

In Beirut in 1983, they came to make peace but left in disgrace. Ten years later, they are repeating the same mistake in the Horn of Africa. In between, there were Grenada, Panama, Iraq, Angola, Afghanistan...etc. Not only do these blunders harm U.S. interests, they also harm all those who come in touch with them. The Kurds and the Shiites of Iraq, for example, were promised moral and material support if they revolted against the regime, but were left in the cold afterwards.

One would expect the Americans, the only superpower left on stage after the demise of the Soviet Union, to think carefully and clearly their post-cold war policies and base them on the ideals of their founding fathers, rather than stumble again and again like a clumsy giant.

The case of Somalia is a good example. The American intervention was welcomed by most world nations, even traditional critics of the U.S. It was hoped that such an intervention would put an end to the internal feud and misery of thousands of starving people. But soon the Americans and fellow troops in the U.N. peacekeeping mission started to make mistakes and the intervention turned bloody. Now the Americans say they want out; internal strife and fighting will resume.

Whether a replacement of the man who runs the U.S. foreign policy will improve the country's conduct abroad, we do not know. What we sincerely think should be done is for the U.S. to put its foreign policy act together and show quality of leadership as people expect from the most powerful and influential nation on earth.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR Tuesday said that the release of a limited number of Palestinian detainees was not enough to prove Israel's good intention. Of course, the move was designed as part of Israel's drive towards confidence-building and towards creating opportune climate for peace, in accordance to the recent PLO-Israel accord, said the paper. But it said that although this is a positive step to be taken by the Israeli government, it could be interpreted as a move that would keep the Palestinians and the Israelis apart, especially as Israeli official statements accompanying the release of the detainees were not encouraging at all. The PLO-Israel accord has left no excuse for Israel to keep holding the Palestinian detainees, particularly as the deal manifests the PLO's open recognition of Israel and vice versa, which, the paper said, means that the Israelis recognise the rights of the Palestinian people. The paper said that delaying the release of all the other detainees was bound to create new problems for the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators and would serve as a new source of tension between the two sides that could again trigger violence. Therefore, said the daily, the release of 700 detainees should be considered as a very limited move towards building confidence between the Israelis and Palestinians, requiring immediate and follow up steps designed to pave the ground for a lasting solution and peace.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour said that earthquakes, though unlikely to occur very often, should be given due attention and precautionary measure should be taken against them. We have lost a great deal in the past following the occurrence of natural disasters, mainly because not much has been done in advance preparations to deal with the situation, said Mohammad Daoud. It must be said that the parties concerned with dealing with the consequences of earthquakes ought to make preparations for any eventuality and train emergency teams in advance so as to minimise loss of life, suggested the writer. It would not be useful to set up committees after the disaster has struck because precious time would be lost and people's lives would be at stake, he added. The writer said that teams should be trained in evacuating threatened homes, ensuring safe places for the evacuees and ample food and clothing or tents should be made available in advance. It is also useful to form popular teams and train them to assist the official Civil Defence teams in catering to the needs of the victims of earthquakes or any other natural disaster that might strike at any moment, suggested the writer.

A Muslim American doctor, Washington, DC and the U.S. health care debate

By Dr. James Zoghy

The American political scene has come to be dominated by the issue of health care like no other issue in the past generation. It has played an important role in U.S. politics for the past three years, and will for some time to come, but it is incredibly complex.

Dr. Mohammad Akhtar, a Pakistani American, is one of the leading medical professionals in the U.S. As commissioner of Public Health in Washington, DC, he has become an outspoken advocate in the American debate on health care.

Dr. Akhtar came to his post in 1991 from a distinguished career in medicine. After receiving his medical degree in Lahore, Pakistan in 1967, Dr. Akhtar came to the U.S. to finish his training. During the 1970s and 80s, he held major posts in the health departments in the states of Michigan and Missouri. Then, in 1987, he returned to his native Pakistan as principal of the College of Community Medicine in Lahore and also as chairman of that institution's Department of Public Health and Hospital Administration.

Dr. Akhtar returned to the U.S. in 1991 and was appointed by Washington's mayor to serve as commissioner of Public Health. In this capacity, he is responsible for safeguarding the health of the city's 650,000 residents, supervising its 1,700 health care employees and overseeing its budget of \$156 million.

Within a short period of time, Dr. Akhtar has made major innovations. He instituted a comprehensive school health project which placed nurses in every school and provided health services and education to the city's children. Dr. Akhtar also developed a five-year AIDS plan, a city-wide immunisation campaign to inoculate Washington's children against disease and has created mobile medical clinics to bring health care

services to the poorest neighbourhoods in the area.

Dr. Akhtar speaks passionately about the city of Washington (simply called "DC" by most of its residents, of which I am one). DC provides a shocking case study in the health care crisis facing the U.S.

Like most major U.S. cities, there are two Washingtons. An affluent white part of the city, with the best hospitals, best doctors and people wealthy enough to afford health care. The other Washington, more than 60 per cent of the city, is desperately poor, largely black, with pressing problems of unemployment, drug abuse, violence, and rampant teenage sex.

The result of these widespread social problems is a devastating health care crisis. 112,000 residents of the city (one-sixth of DC's total population) have no health insurance. They therefore cannot afford health care and do not seek it unless they become severely ill. Then they go to the overcrowded emergency rooms of the city's hospitals for concentrated care which they cannot pay for.

Another 100,000 DC residents are on Medicaid — the nation's limited health care programme. They do receive treatment, 50 per cent of which is paid by the DC government and 50 per cent of which is paid by the federal government. The annual Medicaid bill for the DC government is over \$300 million. After the running of the city itself, health care is the biggest industry in Washington.

As a result of poverty, poor health care, bad diets, drug abuse and teenage sex, the health care problems of the city's poor are overwhelming: high blood pressure, high rates of heart disease and cancer, the highest rate of death and injury through violence in the country and a shockingly high level of infant mortality and babies born with serious defects. Infant mortality is a use-

ful index of the quality of health care in a country. The U.S.'s rate of eight to nine deaths per 1,000 live births is good, but not in the top 10 among the nations of the world. By comparison, the rate in DC is 20 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Dr. Akhtar notes that DC's problems are not unique. The health care crisis in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and most major U.S. cities is very similar.

But DC's problems are different in one respect. All other cities with health care crises are in states where the state governments provide additional revenues to assist the poorer and more challenged cities. While Atlanta, for example, is as hard-hit by health care problems as is DC, Atlanta can be helped by the State of Georgia, which can provide revenues derived from taxing their cities' more wealthy suburbs.

DC, by contrast, is a city without state authority, and so it cannot make its own policy or raise adequate taxes because the residents of its suburbs live in other states. And so the city government of Washington faces serious problems.

Recently, Dr. Akhtar challenged the nation by proposing a comprehensive health care reform in DC. Calling President Bill Clinton's health care reform programme inadequate to meet Washington's needs, Dr. Akhtar proposed a more radical approach.

The president's health care reform programme is based on what has been termed a "managed competition" model. In proposing his reform programme, the president was responding to what many Americans are convinced is one of our nation's most pressing problems. Consider the following:

— 37,000,000 Americans do not have health insurance.

— 22,000,000 Americans have only partial health insurance.

— Every month 2,000,000 more Americans lose their health insurance.

— 14 per cent of the entire gross domestic product (GDP) of the U.S. goes to pay for health care.

The president's goal in his reform programme was to reduce costs and provide universal coverage to all Americans. The "managed competition" approach creates large groups of buyers, so that instead of buying health insurance as a number of small groups, groups will be pooled together with the hoped-for result that costs will come down. In the president's system, every American will receive a "health security card" and will be eligible to join one of the large groups buying health insurance. And those who can't afford to pay the group's premium will be provided with the support to do so.

What Dr. Akhtar proposes for the city is what is called the "single-payer" model of health insurance. Using this approach, Dr. Akhtar proposes that rather than competition, the government will create a single group insurance programme to which every citizen will belong. In this model, the government will take charge, regulate cost, guarantee service and reduce the 25 per cent administrative costs that are currently charged by the private insurance companies.

Dr. Akhtar argues that by using the "single payer" model, DC will ensure that everyone will have the same access to health care and costs for the overall system will be lower.

While the president's plan does allow individual states (or, in this case, Washington, DC) to develop alternative models if they see fit, Dr. Akhtar's proposals generated significant press coverage during the past few weeks, putting him in the centre of the nation's health care debate.

Dr. Akhtar praises President Clinton for having raised the issue of health care and for putting a proposal before Congress. He feels, however, that

the President's plan "has compromised too much" and, in any case, will not solve the desperate problems faced by the city of Washington.

Both Dr. Akhtar's proposal and that of the president have come under attack from the powerful medical and health insurance lobbies, together referred to as the health care lobby. Tens of millions of dollars are being spent on television advertising to defeat the president, and the lobby (which has also made tens of millions of dollars in campaign contributions in recent years) is putting pressure on Congress to stop any reform.

But Dr. Akhtar is made of solid stuff and he seems ready to face the challenge. It is important that this Muslim American is taking a leadership role. He is proud of his ethnic background and has played a leadership role among immigrant doctors in the U.S. For two years he served as the president of the American College of International Physicians. There are, as Dr. Akhtar says, 125,000 foreign-born doctors in the U.S. — 25,000 of whom are Muslim.

He reports that he has faced discrimination in his life, but says: "everyone who first comes to this country faces it... Irish, Jews, Arabs, Italians. They were all first met with resistance." The way this doctor dealt with the problem was "not to cry, but to prepare myself, to compete, be the best, and make it!"

Dr. Akhtar has advice for

his colleagues who are immigrants from other countries "Do not forget your native lands," he says, and he proposes a number of contributions they can make. First, they can send medical books, journals, and equipment back to hospitals in their countries. He also suggests that they can return for a time to their native countries as he did to Pakistan, to teach or provide care or to live for a short period of time and help prepare the young for the profession of medicine.

Finally, he suggests that they should always look for ways, as he did, to synthesise the good in both countries' systems — the American system and their native system — so as to help bring the best of both together. In fact, many of Dr. Akhtar's most interesting innovations in DC health care have come as a result of applying lessons he learned in Pakistan to the poor of Washington. Promoting the use of nurse midwives, training older women to become nurses' aids and instituting what Dr. Akhtar terms "culturally sensitive" health care are all ideas he imported from his experiences in Pakistan.

Mohammad Akhtar has already made a significant contribution to health care in the U.S. — and as the debate over reform continues, his contribution will only increase.

The writer is president of the Washington-based Arab-American Institute. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

LETTERS

One for half

To the Editor:

The bad news is that none of the three women candidates who are vying for the parliamentary seats has a real chance of winning. I heard a trustworthy observer affirm. According to this person, the fact that the number of women who run for elections now has shrunk compared to last time from 12 to three is a strong indication that realism has finally prevailed over idealism. Women rights advocates, take note!

The good news, though, lies in the fact that those three candidates, representing half of the country's population, have insisted to run against all odds. It is a clear sign of their fiscal audacity and rare courage. It also sends a message of deep significance to whoever is concerned.

This phenomenon can be looked at from three angles:

1. The woman in our society is living her golden age. Thanks to the man's guardianship, be he a husband, a father or a brother, the woman is a citizen who enjoys total autonomy as far as her civil, social and political rights are concerned. Therefore, there is no need for the woman to speak out, or for any other woman to speak for her or defend her, etc.
2. Women do not tolerate or sympathise with other women. In other words, a woman does not trust the leadership of another woman (if there were such a leadership or a platform for it). The women did not vote for women last time, and they will not do it this time either!

So if one or more women candidates could make it to the Chamber of Deputies this time (still a very slim chance), it will be so due to the men's votes and not the trust of other women. The reason is simple: men can choose their candidates, but women's votes are sanctioned by their own obligations towards their husbands, fathers and brothers.

3. The woman is playing her social and educational role at its best through the family, which constitutes her main link to the broader society. Therefore, there cannot be a direct and practical rapport between, let us say, a married woman and public life.

A woman's natural place is at home, where she takes care of kids and attends to the domestic needs of the household!

Surprises may arise and predictions might prove untrue, and there are some people who would like to bet on that. But if one of these women candidates win the race, it will prove, among other things, that perseverance can pay off and that the word despair exists in the minds of the weak only.

It will be an awesome historic scene to see a woman, elected, sitting under the dome of the House, amidst 79 equally elected men. That should make a lot of women rights advocates happy. Because half of the whole population of Jordan will be legally represented by this one deputy. The other half of the society will have needed the rest of the seats to be able to present its views.

Salim Ayoab,
Amman.

Deadly custom

To the Editor:

Chain smokers or heavy smokers are men or women who have failed to discipline their desires. An individual with undisciplined desires is a liability to his family and a risk to his environment and society.

Medical and insurance statistics reveal that mortality from heart diseases, cancer, stomach ulcers, pneumonia and other major diseases among chain smokers is double the rate among non-smokers. Dr. Raymond Pearl of Johns Hopkins University once said: "Smoking is associated with definite impairment of longevity."

But the most annoying problem facing us today is the increasing number of road traffic accidents. This momentous problem can be solved or at least reduced to a minimum overnight if our authorities apply stricter measures regarding the health of our drivers using the roads. A simple test to measure the nicotine in the blood vessels of our licensed drivers will disclose and differentiate non-smokers from light smokers, from heavy smokers. Edison said: "Cigarette smoking has a violent reaction on the nerve centres, producing a degeneration of the cells of the brain. This degeneration is permanent. No one who smokes can work in my laboratories."

So to live healthily and to an old age, one should renounce the use of tobacco.

George N. Saig,
Amman

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Clinton's foreign policy battles far from over

By Donald M. Rothberg
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — While a noisy debate rages on Capitol Hill, the Clinton administration and key allies in Congress are quietly examining what went awry in foreign policy and how to fix it.

Growing unhappiness over how the administration has handled crises in Haiti, Somalia and Bosnia has led to public and private calls for the dismissal of Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Defence Secretary Les Aspin.

"It's fair for the president to bring his secretary of state and his secretary of defence in and ask if they're really handling these situations in the best way possible," said Sen. Patrick Leahy, Democrat from Vermont.

"There has to be a thoroughgoing reevaluation of policy," said Rep. Lee Hamilton, Democrat from Indiana, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. "I don't know for a fact that it's occurring but it would seem to me it's likely."

Mr. Leahy and Mr. Hamilton spoke at the end of an unusual sequence of events abroad and at home. A fire-fight in Somalia left 18 Americans dead. Angry Haitians forced a U.S. ship to turn away. And into the leadership vacuum stepped Congress,

riled and willing to take on the inexperienced president.

In the end, the White House defeated efforts to tie Mr. Clinton's hands on military deployments. But last week's Senate votes were only a skirmish in what promises to be a long war over the conduct of U.S. policy abroad.

There are signs the administration realises more must be done to smooth out its handling of foreign policy. "At the highest levels of the administration, there is an understanding that they need to look very critically at their team to see if it needs improvements," said an administration official who insisted on anonymity.

Implied criticism of Mr. Christopher and Mr. Aspin from Mr. Leahy, a strong Clinton ally, undoubtedly weighs heavier with the president than recent public attacks on the two cabinet members from Rep. Frank McCloskey, Democrat from Indiana, and Sens. Alfonse D'Amato, Republican from New York, and Hank Brown, Republican from Colorado.

Many friendly critics of the administration's foreign policy are also unhappy with Mr. Christopher and Mr. Aspin. While none is ready to join in public demands that they be fired, they are quietly suggesting to Mr. Clinton that he is not being well served by his

two most visible foreign policy advisers.

The unease in Congress with the two cabinet officials crystallised shortly after the fire-fight in Somalia.

Mr. Christopher and Mr. Aspin went to Capitol Hill and briefed 200 members of the House and Senate. Their performance was criticised as muddled and meandering. Lawmakers who expected the two to spell out U.S. policy in Somalia were themselves asked what they thought it should be.

Despite the attacks on Mr. Christopher and Mr. Aspin, the likelihood is that any changes will be structural — a shuffling of organisational slots rather than changes in the people who fill them.

"The president is fully satisfied with his foreign policy team," said White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers. "He has great confidence in them and I don't expect to see any changes."

Members of Congress concerned with foreign policy are telling Mr. Clinton that if he wants to avoid a series of similar confrontations, he must give foreign policy more of his time.

Mr. Hamilton said that when it comes to committing U.S. troops to places like Somalia or Haiti, "the president has to persuade a reluctant public to generate support."

Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware, the second-ranking Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee, said he doesn't blame Mr. Clinton's national security advisers for mistakes on foreign policy as much as his political and domestic team.

Mr. Biden said Mr. Clinton is restrained by domestic advisers who believe he can't afford to use political capital needed for such domestic issues as health care and the economy. "If you don't see the president speaking out on this, then I think the president's foreign policy, no matter how well-conceived, is not likely to succeed," said Mr. Biden.

Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, a Republican who opposed attempts to place limits on Mr. Clinton's ability to deploy U.S. forces, said he hopes the recent foreign policy debate taught Mr. Clinton that "foreign policy comes with the job. You have to be adequately engaged."

Haiti, Bosnia and Somalia are just this year's crises, said Mr. Leahy, chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations.

He said it's time for Congress and the administration "to sit down quietly and say we haven't done a good enough job in the past and the stakes are too big for the future to just do business as usual."

Handwritten signature: J.P. in 1993

Snippets and tidbits from election '93

Misguided speeches, guided allegiances in the election districts

The 1993 elections campaign, serious as it appears, is not devoid of a light — sometimes funny — side. There are tidbits about news, views and comments about the campaign that will appear (hopefully) every day in this corner until it is all over on Nov. 8. Humour is intended in the column, in no way libel.

SOME CANDIDATES have found a trove they treasure and plan to use against the government. It is kept under lock and key until they will get the opportunity to reveal all in a press conference sometime this week. They claim that the government wants to rig the Nov. 8 elections but was foolish

enough to leave tracks behind. The candidates claim that the government purposely allowed for the duplication of names in its lists of voters so that some of them would be able to cast their votes more than once. These people, the candidates claim, would cast their votes in favour of the candidates the government wants. The mistake the government made, the candidates add, is to give the later the computer discs which carry the list of voters and so enable them to reveal the attempt. The catch in this whole story is that the minister of interior, Salameh Hammad, had already announced weeks ago that the computer lists do include about 70,000



Ibrahim Kilani duplicate names and that they had been spotted and will not appear on the day of the elections. (Actually it is reported that the Ministry of Interior has been able to find one woman whose name appeared 21 times in the seven districts of Amman). But our candidates who are too busy making

the news apparently have not been reading it.

THIRD DISTRICT OF Amman candidate Ibrahim Zeid Keilani, criticised "bourgeois dress modes and lifestyles" in a debate of the five candidates running for that district, organised Monday evening at the Philadelphia Hotel. The irony of his message to the audience of about 1,500 is that they were actually the bourgeoisie that he was criticising. These people did not attend out of sheer interest, they only arrived at the hotel after receiving printed invitations and assurances that this is a private and elitist congregation. They represented the money makers

of the capital and most arrived with their wives and daughters who adhered to the dress modes and lifestyles he was lashing out at.

AS IF to support the government's argument that public rallies should be banned because they endanger the safety of the citizens, a rally held in the First District of Amman did cause injury to at least two people. Ali Faqir, who in this corner was named as one of the only candidates permitted to hold a public rally, met trouble in his first such meeting this week. While delivering his speech to his voters, another candidate and his people apparently interfered to argue with him which encouraged Fa-

qir's family members to fight it out with the other candidate's team. The end result was a few broken chairs and the quick moving of Faqir's son and nephew to hospital.

AN INTERESTING new development in advertisements published in local newspapers over the past week is that in their majority they have become ads denying support to candidates rather than giving support. While two weeks ago candidates took to publishing the names of those who support them, their supporters are now publishing ads saying that they never committed themselves to voting for this or that candidate.

NURMEEN MURAD

World needs 'peace education'

(Continued from page 1)

He warned of illiteracy as a real obstacle to human development and human interaction.

Dr. Majali advocated a new world order based on mutual interests as the only means for breaking into the cycle of threats to human life, including poverty, environmental deterioration and illiteracy.

He said that statistics from

various United Nations Organisations provide evidence that the world is no longer able to provide the basic human needs and that more than one billion people are still living under poverty line, in addition to the millions of children who are starving to death, at a time when it allocates more than 20 per cent of the national gross product to wars and arms of destruction.

Parties want 'deadline' extended

(Continued from page 1)

Arranged in alphabetical order on a first-name basis, a voter could spend 10 to 30 minutes scanning the lists for his/her name. When found, the voter can head to the assigned box to collect the card.

If the name is not found on the lists, the voter can search for the number of the box at the computer terminal. "Only if voters cannot find their names on the lists, they can ask us for a computer search, otherwise, the crowds would be too much to handle," said Mohammad Khatib, a Ministry of Interior official at the Rashid centre.

"I don't know where to start," said Mustafa Tarkhan, a pick-up driver in his fifties who was looking for his wife's name. "This is all wasted effort. It is easier for me to just give up and forget about voting," Mr. Tarkhan said.

One of the card distributors, looking at the Tarkhan family book, which gave Rashid 1 as

the concerned centre, advised him to head to Abdul Hamid Sharaf School, a First District centre.

"I will go and try my luck there," said Mr. Tarkhan.

Waleed Aziz, a returnee from Kuwait said he found his name but was unable to find that of his wife. "There is a lot of mix-up. I could not even find the number of the box," Mr. Aziz said that he was determined to collect all his family's cards, "because we want to exercise our right to vote."

One hour before the centre was to close for the day (which is 5:00 p.m.) the number of cards collected was 14,735. "This is almost one third of the total (32,000) and the turnout is not as it should be," Mr. Khatib said, adding, however, that he expected the process to pick up in the coming two days, because "people tend to leave things till the last minute."

PLO presses Israel to free all detainees

(Continued from page 1)

9,500.

Dr. Shaath said the two sides were "getting into the real business" Tuesday, discussing security and the transfer of authority. But he added: "We have a long way to go."

"We are ready to go on to produce the results we have promised."

The Palestinian negotiators have been keeping attention focused on the prisoners released to show that the PLO represents all Palestinians and can deliver for them.

"We are trying to make peace between Palestinians and Israelis — not between Israel and a faction of the PLO. If peace has a broader base it will have wider support," said delegate Abu Ziad.

Meanwhile, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators on

Tuesday began talking about their concepts of security and transfer of authority.

An Israeli official cited as an example the question of whether the army would be in charge only of the places where Jewish settlers live, or also nearby fields and factories.

Under the Israel-PLO accord, the army would complete its withdrawal from Gaza and the Jericho area in mid-April. The size of the Jericho area has to be negotiated in Taba.

Dr. Shaath said that autonomy should cover the entire Jericho region, an area almost as big as the Gaza Strip.

Israel, however, says it will only hand over Jericho and its immediate surroundings, an area 11 times smaller than that sought by the Palestinians.

Jordanian leftists find themselves in a corner

(Continued from page 1)

mergers and unity among parties that share similar political ideas.

So far, some parties have forged tactical alliances in some electoral districts in support of the strongest candidates that each party has, but there are no indications of genuine mergers. The only exception is the declared alliance between the leftist Democratic Jordan People's Party and the Jordanian Democratic Popular Party.

The alliance, which produced the Progressive List of candidates, is the first of its kind since the mid-fifties, when the National Front was formed by leftist nationalists to contest the elections and to unify the opposition.

But most of the left remains split. The government ban on election rallies has dealt a serious blow to the leftists and pan-Arabists who cannot compete with the conservatives' ability to orchestrate well-financed election campaigns in the press and host large luncheons for their supporters.

In the view of many activists, the voting system and the ban on the rallies have deprived parties of the chance of adequately contesting the country's first multi-party elections since 1956 and of an opportunity to increase the level of organised popular participation.

Senior officials in leftist parties, conceded that the parties have not been able to wide their membership partly because of the "phobia of organised political work" that has its roots in the pre-democratisation era when members of political parties were persecuted.

The current election campaign has revealed that four years of liberalisation have not yet succeeded in totally breaking "the barrier of fear" that resulted from decades of banning organised political activities, many activists and analysts maintain.

One problem that faces "the historical opposition" is that it is still viewed and, sometimes even treated, by some government departments as "foes of the system."

According to a study by Hani Hourani of the New Jordan Research Centre, both the government and the political parties have to clarify to the public that parties are no longer outside the political system.

"There is a persistent problem of viewing any opposition to the government-executive authority and the political system (in a negative way)," Mr. Hourani said in a

paper presented to a seminar on "Civic society after four years of liberalisation process," held at the Centre for Middle Eastern studies last week.

The problem partly emanates from decades of clandestine work when many parties did not themselves differentiate between opposition to the system and opposition to the government.

But activists in these parties, which attained legal status in the last two years, say that some government departments cannot yet understand that opposition to certain policies is not rejection of the system itself.

During the eighties, most of the opposition had undergone a fundamental change, as their programmes and practices reflected a gradual de facto acceptance to work under the umbrella of the system and a move away from policies that implied demands for overthrowing the government, a position implied in their literature by the reference to the need of "setting up a nationalist Jordanian authority."

This shift was accelerated after the liberalisation process began and culminated with the opposition's approval of the National Charter in 1990. By approving the charter, they practically and formally agreed to work within the political system in return for building a pluralistic society.

The National Charter constituted a historic turning point that incorporated the opposition into the system which in its turn legitimised their role in the political life of the country.

In practice, however, according to activists and analysts, the delay in the legalisation of parties, and lifting of martial laws did not give the parties the chance to overcome the barriers the long years of clandestine activities produced. Some leftists contend that local government officials have been interfering in the campaigns of their candidates and they are considering sending a memo to the minister of interior, in the name of the number of leftist parties, to protest "against official interference." Furthermore, leftist and pan-Arabist parties complain that they are denied access to air their views in the government-controlled media. The local Arabic newspapers, except for the tabloids, are not publishing their statements, they say.

The perceived de facto curbs on political expression were strongly felt after the signing of the Israeli-PLO

accord and the Jordanian-Israeli agenda, which the leftist and pan-Arab parties oppose.

The opposition to the Israeli-PLO accord, and the Jordanian-Israeli agenda, as well as fears that the elections will strengthen the traditionalists and tribal leaders seem to be bringing the leftists closer to the Islamists in spite of the historical competition between them.

These shared concerns by the leftists and the Islamists are unlikely to be reflected on the elections, but could be a prelude to joint political positions on political issues and against the alleged "official interference" in the elections that both trends have complained against.

Even if the leftists, pan-Arabists and Islamists were drawn together by common political positions and feelings that they "are being targeted," the first two groups will still have to prevent being marginalised by the conservative parties and the Islamists.

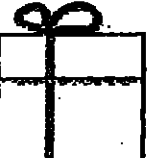


Foreign military attaches, some accompanied by their spouses, Tuesday visited the Jordan Times and were briefed by editor George Hawatmeh (front row, second from right) on the policies and procedures of the newspaper (Staff photo by Aynsley Floyd)

Jordan Times
Tel.: 667171

ARAB WOMEN GRADUATES CLUB QUIZ DINNER NIGHT

WHAT? Quiz & Dinner & Band
WHERE? Orthodox Club
WHEN? 8 PM on 28 Oct.
WHY? It will be fun



PRIZES
PRIZES
PRIZES

For an enjoyable evening of good food and lots more questions get your ticket at the Orthodox Club or call 661026 (Nanice) & 644267 (Mona). Tickets are JD 10.

AGRICULTURE RESEARCH ASSISTANT REQUIRED FOR SIX MONTHS ONLY

To assist in collecting data for historic review of the allocation and expenditure of funds for all agricultural research in Jordan, other countries in the region and internationally. Include relationship to GNP, agricultural production, etc. Detailing the source and amounts of these funds, eg. government, private sector, special taxes or contributions specifically allocated for agricultural research, donor grants and loans etc. Also assist in preparing detailed report of allocation and expenditure of funds for all agricultural research, as above.

QUALIFICATIONS:
A minimum of B.Sc. degree in agriculture field with excellent command of English and Arabic languages and use of computer and typing skills. Interested candidates with the above required qualifications may apply in writing by submitting a recent biographical data in English to the Chief of the Technical Assistance and Services Office (TASO) at:

National Centre for Agricultural Research & Technology Transfer
National Agricultural Development Project/TASO
Bag'a - Jordan
Telephone: 725411/2 Fax: 679677

Applications must be delivered by hand by 14:00 hours of November 7, 1993.

Liberals sweep Canadian polls

(Continued from page 1)

so vast that it could not be attributed to any misce. In the east, they were blown out of the picture by Liberals; in the west their seats went to Reform, a party more rightist than the Conservatives that preached deficit elimination to taxpayers fed up with government waste. The Bloc Quebecois, which seeks independence for Canada's only French-majority province, grabbed their electorate in Quebec.

When the campaign began 47 days ago, Ms. Campbell came out of the blocks quickly with high popularity ratings. But she stumbled and then ground to a halt under the weight of Mr. Mulroney's dis-

astrous economic legacy and the worst-run campaign in recent history.

Ms. Campbell, who made news in June she became Canada's first female prime minister, was even ousted in her own Vancouver district.

"Success was not ours tonight," she admitted, but added, "Our time in the sun will come again."

The Liberals Tuesday promised to boost economic growth and mend the fraying ties of Canadian unity.

Officials said a transition could take up to two weeks, during which time the Liberals will flesh out their economic platform and face a radically different political landscape.

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A week of elegance, fashion, art & culture

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Fashion shows by El Zay - GFT (manufacturer for leading international firms like: Armani, Valentino, Ungaro, Dior, Ferraud & Montana) and by Venefir; displays of garments, apparel, perfumes and of items fruit of the cooperation with the salt Handicraft Training centre; piano recital by Maestro Alberto Pomeranz; opera recital by baritone Mario Boccardo accompanied by Pianist Barbara Cattabiani; permanent exhibition of works by the Italian Artist Lorenzo Fonda and other events lavishly accompanied by different gourmet dinners prepared by Chef Celeste Tonon, especially flown in from Venice.

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Proceeds will be offered to the National Music Conservatory / Queen Noor Al Hussein Foundation

Israel's '94 budget does not take account of effects of peace accord

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel will reduce its budget deficit to three per cent of gross national product (GNP) in 1994 under the draft budget presented Tuesday which did not allow for the effects of a peace agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The budget would total \$43.5 billion and the deficit would be \$2.6 billion representing three per cent of GNP compared with a deficit of 3.2 per cent this year, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said.

The budget did not take account of the economic and financial effects of the granting of autonomy to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and in Jericho. The budget is subject to debate

and amendment before it is adopted by the end of the year.

The forecast for 1994 is based on the privatisation of state companies which would raise \$1.6 billion and by the raising of loans backed by the U.S. government to raise \$0.6 billion.

One third of the budget, or \$14.5 billion, would be used to service the debt. Military expenditure accounted for \$4.9 billion or 17.4 per cent of expenditure compared with 18 per cent this year.

With the inclusion of annual U.S. military aid, military expenditure would be \$6.7 billion. It was estimated that the cost of maintaining the army in the occupied territories in 1994

would have been \$200 million.

The main focus of the budget next year has been put on education, for which the budget has been increased by a quarter to \$3.3 billion.

Investment in infrastructure, mainly in the form of roads, would be increased by \$170 million.

The government said that it intended to reduce the burden of taxation. A change in the calculation of taxation bands would increase the disposable incomes of Israelis by 1.5 per cent.

The rate of tax applied to companies would be reduced by one percentage point to 38 per cent, and would be reduced by one point per year

until 1996.

The budget made allowance for the arrival of 100,000 immigrants most of whom would come from the former Soviet Union. This year Israel expects to accept about 70,000 immigrants.

The budget for the integration of immigrants next year was set at \$3.8 billion.

The treasury forecast that inflation would fall to eight per cent next year from 10.5 per cent this year. The economy would grow by 5.2 per cent compared with expected growth this year of 3.5 per cent. The rate of unemployment would fall to 9.4 per cent from 10.2 per cent of the workforce.

Iraqi dinar falls to 100 per dollar

BAGHDAD (R) — The Iraqi dinar slumped to a historic low against the U.S. dollar Tuesday, crossing the 100-to-the-dollar threshold for the first time.

It traded at 105 to the dollar on Baghdad's thriving black market, down from a previous low of 95 in May.

The official exchange rate, unchanged from before the Gulf crisis and now little used, values the dinar at \$3.20, more than 330 times what it fetches on the street.

Baghdad traders said the dinar was continuing to fall because there was no sign the United Nations would lift or ease the trade embargo it imposed when Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

When the dinar hit 95, the government reacted by closing the borders and withdrawing from circulation premium-priced banknotes printed abroad before the Gulf crisis. It refused to honour old banknotes held abroad by speculators.

But Baghdad traders said they expected no drastic measures from the government to support the dinar this time. "It has little means left at its disposal," said one.

As the dinar falls, basic commodities keep rising in price.

Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh assured Iraqis in a televised interview that the government would continue with its subsidised rationing system "despite the difficulties and hardships we face."

Armenia to ban trade in dollars, Russian roubles from Nov. 8

YEREVAN (R) — The Transcaucasian state of Armenia will ban the use of foreign cash — including 1993-issue Russian roubles — from next month as it moves towards a new look rouble zone, officials said Tuesday.

"Armenia is entering a transitional period on its way to a new type of rouble zone," Tigran Sarkisyan, head of a parliamentary commission on finance and the budget, told reporters. "The length of the transition depends on Russia."

Armenia is one of several former Soviet republics still using the pre-1993 rouble banknotes Russia abandoned in July.

One dollar is worth 2,800 old roubles in the Armenian capital Yerevan, compared to the Russian rate of 1,189 new roubles per dollar.

But Armenia has signed up for a new type of rouble zone, agreeing to tie Russia's line on fiscal and monetary policy in return for the right to use Russia's new roubles.

Details of how the zone will work have yet to be finalised. Russian officials have said the rouble zone does not necessarily mean that other countries will automatically use the rouble, although it will probably mean fixed exchange rates between different currencies.

They have cautioned against introducing the zone too quickly, warning that countries might be forced to adopt economic performance standards

of the group's weakest member.

Armenia's commission on the regulation of monetary circulation said the ban on foreign currency was needed to meet agreements with Russia during the transition period.

The ban takes effect on Nov. 8, when only pre-1993 roubles will be permitted. As well as restrictions on cash trading, Armenian firms will not be allowed to pay wages in any roubles or convertible currency.

Armenia will also restrict currency exports to \$300, or the equivalent, per person. There is no limit on the amount of currency which can be imported into the former Soviet republic.

complain of and find unfair.

Even 20 per cent was seen as too low by some members of the standing committee of the National People's Congress, now debating the law. They called for a rate of 30 per cent, citing the need for easing "unfair distribution."

Other lawmakers disagree, saying the wealthy should not be penalised for their success.

The draft law calls for progressive taxes of three to 35 per cent on owners of private businesses.

Yemen crisis strains rial

ADEN, Yemen (R) — The rial has slumped and prices risen because of the worst political crisis to hit Yemen since the north and south merged three years ago, economic and political sources said Tuesday.

The rial has dropped from 41 to the dollar to 58 on the free market since a dispute broke out between the northern president and southern vice president in August.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Vice President Ali Salem Al Baidh engineered a relatively trouble-free merger of conservative North Yemen and Marxist South Yemen in May 1990.

Differences began to emerge after President Saleh

broadened his ruling coalition with Mr. Baidh's Yemen Socialist Party to bring in the Islamist Islah Party after general elections in April.

This has shaken confidence, the sources said.

"People fear matters are getting out of hand. Also there is no supervision by the government on the exchange rates," one resident said.

A 50-kilogramme bag of flour has gone up by 100 rials to 1,300 rials and a 45-kilogramme bag of rice by 10 rials to 230 rials.

The April elections, Yemen's first democratic poll, had raised economic expectations in one of the region's

poorest states and the rial's rate initially improved.

It has been declining steadily since the dispute started, although the rate for official transactions remains at 12 to the dollar.

Economists blame a combination of government extravagance, political chaos, shortage of foreign aid, and lack of long-term planning.

The problems were largely triggered by the halt of Gulf Arab aid when Yemen appeared to side with Iraq in the 1990-91 Gulf crisis. One million Yemeni workers who used to send home \$1.4 billion a year were expelled from the Gulf.

Japan agrees to open building market

TOKYO (R) — Japan bowed to U.S. pressure Tuesday and agreed to open its construction market to foreign firms as part of an overhaul of its scandal-ridden bidding system for public works projects.

Just days before a Nov. 1 deadline for U.S. retaliation, the government announced plans to introduce an open bidding system for large government or semi-government projects.

"We strongly hope that the United States will avoid imposing any sanctions," top government spokesman Masayoshi Takemura said after announcing Tokyo's new plan.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa vowed to deliver positive results.

"This is a morality problem involving politicians and the industry... we're going to change the system and show concrete results," he told reporters.

Washington had threatened to curb Japanese participation in U.S. public works projects unless Tokyo agreed to open tenders for all its public projects by Nov. 1.

While U.S. embassy officials in Tokyo declined to say whether the proposal would satisfy Washington, a construction ministry official said he expected approval.

"We are negotiating with the United States through both official and unofficial diplomatic channels... we believe (Washington) will rank highly our proposal," he said.

Spokesman Takemura said Japan's proposed action programme on public works projects still required fine-tuning.

Wages are up for U.S. workers

WASHINGTON (AP) — American workers' wages, salaries and benefits rose 3.6 per cent in the year ended Sept. 30, the government said Tuesday.

The Labour Department said its employment cost index accelerated slightly from the 3.5 per cent advance a year earlier. Analysts had expected costs to remain in the 3.5 per cent range.

The index is considered one of the best gauges of wage inflation pressures.

Wages and salaries rose 3.0 per cent and outpaced the 2.7 per cent inflation rate for the period as measured by the department's consumer price index.

This component, which accounts for 72 per cent of total employment costs, had risen 2.7 per cent a year earlier.

Benefit costs increased 4.9 per cent, slower than the 5.2 per cent advance in the year ended Sept. 30, 1992. A large proportion of benefit costs pay for health care.

Mitterrand proposes EC growth plan

PARIS (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand proposed a giant European Community (EC) bond Monday to fund transport and communications project across Europe and help revive economic growth.

In a lengthy television interview, he said his proposal, to be put to a special EC summit Friday, would restore citizens' faith in the troubled Community. He also advocated negotiating shorter working hours to combat record French unemployment.

The Socialist president, who turned 77 Tuesday, approved Prime Minister Edouard Balladur's firm stance in the GATT world trade talks, but he criticised the six-month-old conservative government's cuts in welfare and health benefits.

Outlining his growth initiative, Mr. Mitterrand said: "If we decided to put 100 billion European Currency Units (ECU) at the disposal of different countries to really build a European infrastructure, it would demonstrate that Europe is a factor for growth, for work and for jobs."

"It is possible to do all that," he emphasised.

He endorsed a proposal by French Socialist leader Michel Rocard to finance such a programme through a jumbo bond and said the European Commission had told him it was feasible to double the 50 billion ECUs (\$60 billion) that Mr. Rocard had suggested.

Mr. Mitterrand also said it was vital to begin the second phase of EC economic and monetary union in January as planned despite recent setbacks in currency stability.

Saying past attempts to stem unemployment now at a record 11.7 per cent, through job training and other schemes had failed, he advocated negotiating a reduced work-week sector by sector.

China's conspicuously rich may face higher taxes

BEIJING (R) — China is planning to increase taxes on the most conspicuous members of its wealthy elite — stars of show business and sport.

"According to a draft law on individual income deliberated last Saturday, singers, actors and athletes would be subject to a tax of 20 per cent," the official China Daily has said.

"Such a move would be aimed at narrowing the wide gap between personal incomes, a condition most Chinese citizens

complain of and find unfair.

Even 20 per cent was seen as too low by some members of the standing committee of the National People's Congress, now debating the law. They called for a rate of 30 per cent, citing the need for easing "unfair distribution."

Other lawmakers disagree, saying the wealthy should not be penalised for their success.

The draft law calls for progressive taxes of three to 35 per cent on owners of private businesses.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 27, 1993
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Saturn goes direct after almost five months in retrograde giving you the opportunity to accomplish a lot of hard work where duty and orderliness are of the most importance. Cooperate with fellow workers.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You find that through updating and improving your personal appearance and your surroundings that you will be able to make headway at your duties.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Now you find that the special talent you had planned to put into motion can be successfully carried through by a consistent following by you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Whatever you have to do that requires a poised attitude at your dwelling is the best means by which you will be able to stabilise conditions there.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Consider well now the various messages you have to attend and do them in a careful and precise manner even though you want to blast one correspondent.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Take some time out to delve into the various practical factors of your everyday affairs that require handling on a smooth and steadfast basis.

VIRGO: (August 22 to Septem-

ber 22) Think about what you can do to put your ideas across and don't be critical of a person very different from you who seems to stand in your way.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Consider well what you can best do to please one you are privately interested in and don't get the desire to fly off to some new interest dither you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A good friend who is not interested in your finances but likes you for your self alone is the one to turn to for help in gaining an aim.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your worldly position is on the line today and it is advisable that you proceed carefully and do nothing to upset anyone in official life.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) New ideas are excellent for you and you advance through them so don't hold on to an old and outdated condition but go forward to new success.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have a good plan now to handle whatever your obligations and so as you do not continue with a long time extravagant you make headway.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Think about what your outside associates desire and don't allow an older and positive bligwig to break up this association or your plans.

Russia gets ready for private land ownership

MOSCOW (R) — Russian officials Tuesday announced a pilot project to divide up big state-owned farms, paving the way for private land ownership in the biggest country in the world.

"The decisions... are closely

linked with the whole philosophy of private ownership in Russia," First Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar told a news conference announcing the plan. "We will introduce a normal system of land ownership."

Farmers at six collective farms near Nizhny Novgorod, an industrial trading city some 500 kilometres east of Moscow, will be the guinea pigs in the project, swapping special land and property certificates for land, buildings and equipment.

"We are not just talking about one agrarian policy in Nizhny Novgorod and another in the rest of Russia," Mr. Gaidar said. "We are working out a national agrarian reform programme which will be common to all the regions of Russia."

Nizhny Novgorod, known as Gorky during the Soviet era and closed to foreigners because of its big military factories, has pioneered several reforms, helped by economist Grigory Yavlinsky and the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

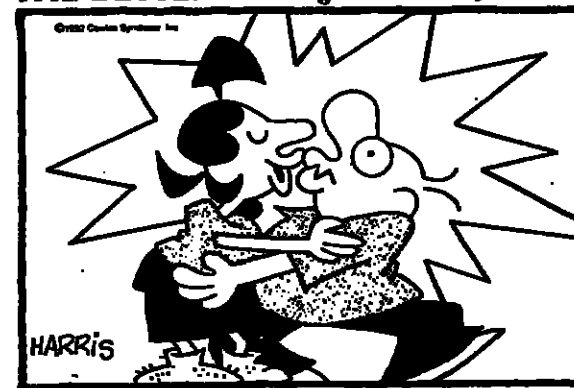
Led by young, reformist local governor Boris Nemtsov, the region was the first in Russia to auction off small shops and firms.

Amra Forum Hotel celebrates 10th anniversary

ON the occasion of its 10th anniversary, the "Amra Forum Hotel" celebrated by hosting a large cocktail reception, inviting to it the government, officials businessmen, and diplomats.

Mohammad Saleh Horani the director general of the Social Security Corporation, Raymond Khalifeh, the executive vice-President and Ali Beisha, the regional director of operations Forum Hotels Jordana and general manager of the Amra Forum Hotel, hosted the celebration. The Amra Forum Hotel, the largest project in the tourist investment of the Social Security Corporation, has been managed since its opening by Forum Hotels International, a division of the Intercontinental Hotels Group. The occasion coincides with a total renovation and enhancement programme of the hotel, where, far, 168 of the 274 rooms and suites have been completed along with the restaurant and the ball-room. Plans are underway for Moroccan restaurant on the roof-top, an indoor swimming pool, and a discotheque, all in preparation for the expected boom in the tourist industry.

THE BETTER HALF, By Harris

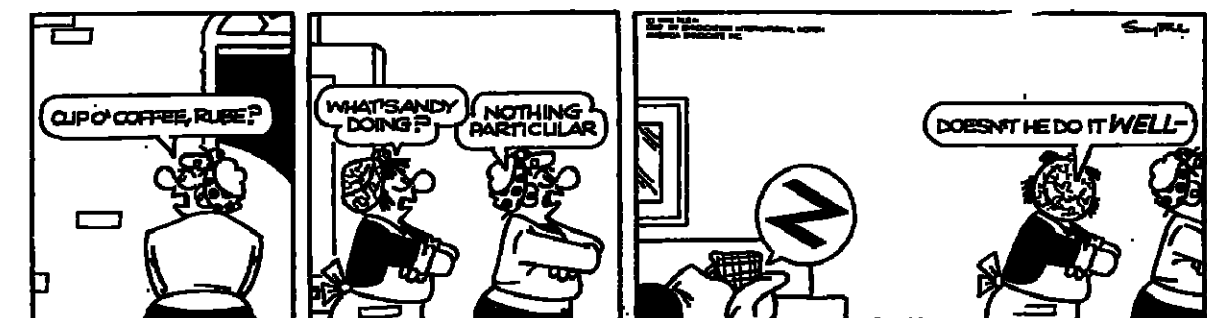


"I found a way to put some spark back in our kisses. I scuffed my feet across the carpet!"

Peanuts



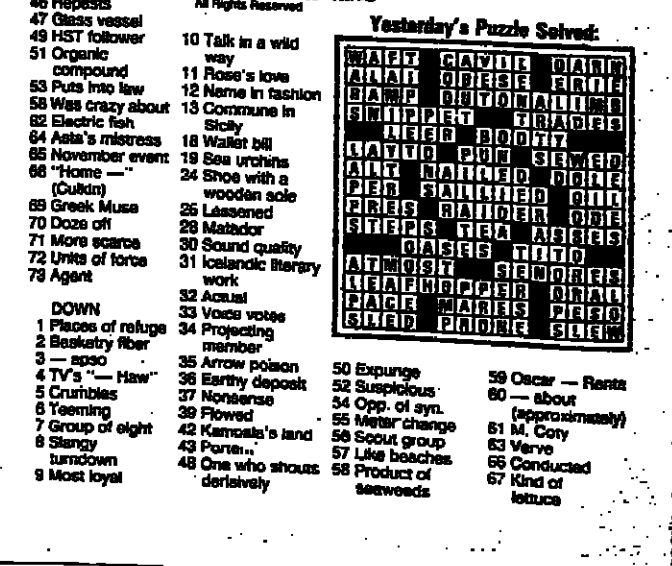
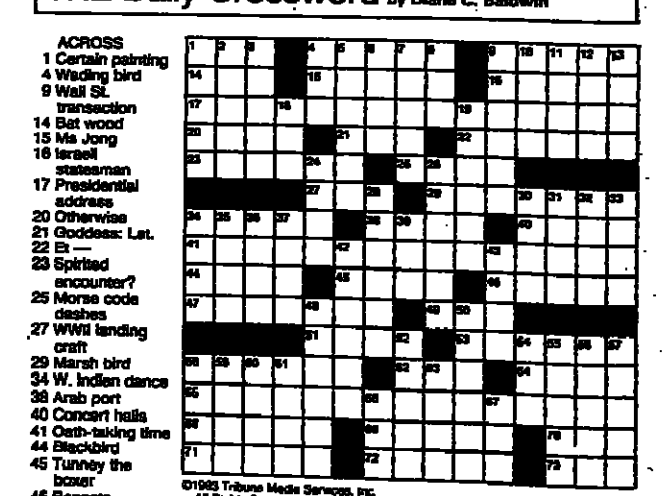
Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword by Diana C. Baldwin



Yesterday's Jumbles: CEASE PANSY LOTION BLOUSE
Answer: Take in hand for a bath — SOAP

Protestants kill 2 in Belfast in revenge attack for IRA blast

BELFAST (R) — Protestant extremists shot dead two workmen and wounded five Tuesday in a revenge attack for an IRA bombing that killed 10 people last weekend.

In a chilling statement to the media, the outlawed Ulster Freedom Fighters said: "This is only the start of the heavy price to be paid... our attacks will widen and intensify."

Workmen dived for cover at a council garbage collection depot when two men dressed in dungarees opened fire with automatic weapons.

Security sources had feared a backlash from militant Protestants who vowed revenge after the Irish Republican Army (IRA) killed 10 people in a botched attack Saturday.

A young boy was seen running around in shock shouting: "My daddy is dead."

In a city already gripped with fear, the attack raised tension even more on a day when Protestants began burying their dead from Saturday's attack.

"The atmosphere is very frightening. People are living in fear," said moderate Irish nationalist Joe Hendron, the member of parliament for West Belfast.

Protestant Unionist parliamentarian Ken Maginnis agreed "people are terrified of

what is going to happen next."

Witnesses said the gunmen struck as the workmen were turning up for the morning shift at the depot in a Roman Catholic enclave in West Belfast.

Police, who said earlier that up to three people were killed, confirmed two deaths. The condition of the injured was not immediately known.

Police said more people would have died had it not been for a garbage truck which provided some cover for the workers.

The attack took place just hours after Protestant gunmen shot dead a 72-year-old pensioner and vowed there would be no let-up in retaliation shootings.

The outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force, another hardline Protestant organisation opposed to the IRA's drive to end British rule in Northern Ireland, said retired grocer Sean Fox was "interrogated" for an hour Monday night.

"He admitted his crimes and was executed," it said in a statement to a local radio station.

The IRA guerrillas, whose weekend bomb went off prematurely, had intended to blow up a secret meeting of Protestant extremists behind a wave of attacks on Catholics.

Protestant extremists shot

dead a Catholic taxi driver just after the IRA bombing and warned after the pensioner's death "there will be no let up."

They issued a warning to keep clear of all the offices and advice centres of Sinn Féin, the political wing of the IRA.

Britain has slammed the door on talks with Sinn Féin whose leader Gerry Adams has offered to broker a ceasefire with the IRA if Britain will accept peace proposals he had worked out in talks with moderate Irish nationalist John Hume.

That provoked an angry response from British Prime Minister John Major who said: "I am not going to deal with people who plant bombs and kill people."

British Home Secretary Michael Howard announced that an exclusion order had been imposed on Mr. Adams, banning him indefinitely from visiting the British mainland.

He had been invited to address British members of parliament by prominent Labour left-winger Tony Benn who said: "There is no justification for this decision."

Four of the victims of Saturday's IRA bomb were buried in Belfast Tuesday. They included a man who had gone with his wife and daughter to buy a funeral wreath for his

father who died in a heart attack last week.

Additional police and troops have been deployed in Belfast in response to the escalating cycle of reprisal attacks, the head of the Northern Ireland police announced Tuesday.

Sir Hugh Annesley of the Royal Ulster Constabulary said the exact number of anti-terrorist troops patrolling the streets of Belfast could not be revealed for security reasons.

Sir Hugh announced the troop increase shortly after Protestant militants killed the two people.

Meanwhile, police closed a busy London underground rail station and neighbouring roads for an hour Tuesday but said an explosion on the line turned out to be caused by an electrical fault.

Transport police said an empty train was derailed near Epping Station, east of London, and they cleared the area as a precaution in the wake of Irish Republican Army guerrilla bombs on rail tracks west and north of the capital Sunday and Monday.

Trains on the central line of the capital's underground system were halted as the morning rush hour began. But police later gave the all clear saying an electrical switch had blown as the result of the derailment.



A Georgian government soldier (left) uses a knife to cut away the uniform of a fellow soldier after he was wounded during fighting in western Georgia (AFP photo)

Georgian troops retake another town

TBILISI (R) — Government forces seized the key town of Senaki in western Georgia Tuesday after hours of heavy fighting with rebels supporting ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, government officials said.

The Defence Ministry and the press office of Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze said by telephone there had been casualties on both sides but could not immediately give details.

There was no immediate independent confirmation. With the seizure of Senaki only two towns in the western Georgian province of Mingrelia, including the regional capital of Zugdidi, would remain in rebel hands.

Forces loyal to Gamsakhurdia, elected in 1991 but overthrown in a bloody revolt in January 1992, quickly seized control of much of western Georgia after their leader returned last month from exile in the breakaway Russian region of Chechnya.

A Defence Ministry spokesman, Soso Margishvili, said.

Government forces have turned the tide of fighting in recent days and recaptured, with little resistance, the strategic prizes of the Black Sea port of Poti and the road and rail junction of Samtredia.

The prosecutor's office said it had issued warrants for the arrest of leading rebels including Mr. Gamsakhurdia and his military commander, Loti Kobalia.

The ministry said earlier government forces had pressed home their initiative in the latest fighting by pushing to within five kilometres of Senaki and capturing a strategic bridge near the Black Sea port of Poti.

Georgian radio said supporters of the ex-president abandoned the bridge after several hours of fighting.

"The enemy lost a significant quantity of manpower and equipment and fled in panic," it quoted Defence Ministry

spokesman Soso Margishvili as saying.

Reuters Television pictures taken Monday showed relaxed government troops patrolling the streets and port in Poti. Cans of imported beer and used syringes littered the local headquarters of the rebels, clearly abandoned in a hurry.

Mr. Shevardnadze has told the rebels to "surrender their weapons or be destroyed," predicting victory over the "dark forces" within days.

A Defence Ministry spokesman, Gia Chikviani, said the government believed Mr. Gamsakhurdia was probably in his western stronghold of Zugdidi — if, he added ironically, he had not already fled back to Chechnya.

Shevardnadze mockingly described the rebels Monday as "specialists at running away."

Gamsakhurdia's hopes of ever returning to power could be fatally undermined if he were forced into exile a second time.

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Boy loses card, meets bureaucracy

QUINCY, Massachusetts (AP) — Eleven-year-old James Zeng's teachers got a note saying he would be "a little late."

Zeng had his first day at central middle school last week — six weeks after he was supposed to start classes. His delay had nothing to do with his dog eating his homework, although it did involve a paper.

He lost his card, which proves he is permanent resident of the United States. Zeng was delayed four months in China where he had been visiting relatives and prevented from returning home by U.S. officials.

"He couldn't find it," Zeng's father, David, told the Patriot Ledger of Quincy Monday. "I felt terrible."

The card had disappeared in July after Zeng arrived in Shanghai and showed it to officials at the airport. Desperate, the boy's parents offered his Chinese passport stamped with the date he became a permanent resident of the United States seven years ago. But that was not proof enough, officials said.

Thus began a waiting game that kept Zeng oceans away. Immigration and Naturalisation Service had to send paperwork proving Zeng's status as a permanent U.S. resident to the U.S. consul general in Shanghai. Then the consulate was able to issue a letter that would serve as a temporary visa and let Zeng return to the United States.

It wasn't until two weeks ago that the documents were approved and his family made flight arrangements for Zeng's return. For the boy's family, the wait was agonising.

"It was months of waiting, and I couldn't do anything. It was terribly inefficient. In America, everything is by the book," David Zeng said.

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Kashmir mosque crisis 'could be resolved soon'

SRINAGAR (AFP) — The Indian authorities are not insisting on the surrender of armed Kashmiri separatists holed up in a mosque here, a senior state official said Tuesday in an indication the crisis could be resolved soon.

Indian officials had previously ruled out granting safe passage to the 50 armed Kashmiri Muslim militants who have been barricaded inside the Hazratbal Mosque, Kashmir's holiest Islamic shrine, for the past 11 days.

But Mehmoond Ur Rehman, an additional secretary for home affairs, told a news conference that the authorities "are not interested in the surrender or capture of the militants."

"All our efforts are directed to ensure that there is no sacrifice of the shrine," he said, ruling out a military assault on the white-marble complex on the banks of Dal Lake.

Mr. Rehman said that Wajahat Habibullah, another senior Kashmiri official, was making hourly visits to the besieged mosque to try to hammer out an agreement with

masked and armed Muslim rebels who spoke to him from behind a fence.

Mr. Rehman said without elaborating that the militants were showing signs of "flexibility" and appeared to be "willing to see reason."

The 50 Muslim guerrillas and about 70 Muslim pilgrims have been holed up inside the mosque since the night of Oct. 15, when it was surrounded by troops conducting a routine sweep against separatist rebels.

Mr. Rehman said the government would "remove the cordon of the shrine as soon as we achieve our objective of getting the captives freed and saving the holiest shrine of the Kashmir Valley from desecration."

"If we want we could find the solution within 15 to 30 minutes," Mr. Rehman said in an apparent reference to a storming of the complex by elite commandos, "but we do not want to hurt the religious sentiments of the people."

The army siege of the Hazratbal Mosque, which houses a hair Kashmiri Muslims believe comes from the beard of the

Prophet Mohammad, has triggered near daily anti-Indian protests in the Muslim-majority Kashmir Valley.

More than 50 demonstrators were shot dead by Indian paramilitary troops Friday when they tried to march on the shrine to force a lifting of the army siege.

In other developments Tuesday, the Indian authorities lifted a curfew imposed on this Kashmir summer capital and a doctor was allowed inside the mosque to examine some of the pilgrims trapped inside.

There were also scattered protests against the army siege of the mosque.

Troops used clubs to break up the sporadic protests by several hundred demonstrators in several downtown neighbourhoods, police said.

The government had lifted the curfew here for about five hours Monday but it was reimposed after demonstrators threw stones and shouted abuse at patrolling troops in a number of places.

Kashmir's leading Muslim cleric, Umar Farooq, complained

meanwhile that he is being kept under virtual house arrest.

In a statement smuggled out to journalists, the 20-year-old priest said: "I have been trapped inside my house. My telephone has been cut and I have no contact with the outside world."

In Islamabad, Pakistani police heavily guarded the Indian embassy as hundreds of people staged demonstrations Tuesday against the siege of the Muslim shrine in Kashmir by the Indian forces.

In nearby Rawalpindi, demonstrators pelted the police with stones as it blocked a procession brought out by the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) from entering Islamabad.

Witnesses said angry demonstrators burned tyres on the roads and set a vehicle on fire during skirmishes with the police.

In Islamabad, police stopped several hundred people marching under the banner of fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) Party from going to the Indian mission.

Army blockades Sarajevo to catch renegade officers

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — The Bosnian army ordered the people of Sarajevo to stay inside their houses Tuesday while troops searched the city for two renegade commanders it considers criminals.

The army set up tank barricades and posted soldiers around the city. The United Nations kept its forces off the streets except for armoured vehicles travelling in pairs.

But as troops sought to solidify Muslim unity behind Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, he faced another challenge Tuesday as Fikret Abdic, head of the breakaway northwestern enclave of Bihac, declared himself president of the republic.

Mr. Abdic, like Mr. Izetbegovic, has declared Bihac autonomous and last week made his own peace with Bosnian Serbs and Croats. That allowed him to concentrate on his struggle with Mr. Izetbegovic, who has sent sol-

diers into the enclave to quell the rebellion.

Mr. Abdic blames Mr. Izetbegovic for contributing to the war and is critical of him for not accepting peace terms offered by the Serbs and Croats.

Also Tuesday, U.N. officials announced they were suspended aid convoys to central Bosnia following the killing of a Danish relief worker and the wounding of 11 U.N. soldiers and relief workers Monday.

In Luxembourg, European Community mediator Lord Owen rejected a call by French President Francois Mitterrand to use military force to keep open humanitarian supply routes into Bosnia-Herzegovina. Lord Owen said that would only cast the international community "in a combatant's role" and blur the United Nations' neutrality.

The crackdown in Sarajevo apparently was aimed at imposing some order in the Bosnian capital.

Haiti peace plan goes to a scattered, scared parliament

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A quick solution to Haiti's political crisis rested Tuesday in the hands of lawmakers who thus far have been too terrified to enact a peace plan.

Haiti's army chief, Lt.-Gen. Raoul Cedras, has said he might quit and let elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide return. In exchange, he has demanded that the scattered and frightened parliament meet to grant an amnesty to those involved in murders since the army toppled Mr. Aristide in 1991.

Gen. Cedras, who helped oust Aristide in the bloody coup, also wants his replacement to be one of his three top aides.

Under the U.N. peace plan to bring back Mr. Aristide Saturday, Gen. Cedras was to have stepped down last week. Parliament, for its part, was to have approved separation of the country's police force from the military.

Prospects that Mr. Aristide will return as scheduled are dim.

Gen. Cedras and Robert Malval, Mr. Aristide's prime minister, met for nearly three hours Monday at Mr. Malval's residence. But Frantz Voltaire, Mr. Malval's chief of staff, said no agreement was reached on security for pro-Aristide legislators, a key point if parliament is to achieve a quorum.

Lawmakers and foreign diplomats say they fear for the safety of pro-Aristide legislators despite army assurances. Political killings and mayhem by army-backed gunmen have followed such assurances in the past.

"If the parliament does not meet I think there will be a problem," Mr. Voltaire said. He looked drawn after the meeting with Gen. Cedras, who smiled and waved to reporters as his motorcade roared off.

EC foreign ministers debate post-Maastricht era

LUXEMBOURG (R) — European Community (EC) foreign ministers met Tuesday to prepare for a summit Friday that will show commitment to the controversial Maastricht Treaty on European Union when it takes effect next week.

But with unemployment in the 12-nation bloc stubbornly high and war raging on its doorstep in former Yugoslavia, few signs of triumph were visible as the ministers debated a treaty that is meant to signal a new era for EC economic and foreign policy.

External Political Relations Commissioner Hans Den Broek, a member of the EC's Executive Commission, said as he arrived for the ministerial meeting that the EC must restate its commitment to implementing the new treaty which formally comes into operation on Nov. 1.

The decision to go ahead with Friday's gathering in

Brussels was confirmed only when Germany's constitutional court earlier this month rejected challenges to the treaty, thus ending a tortuous process of EC-wide ratification.

France and Denmark, in national referendum, and Britain in a parliamentary vote all had close calls along the road to ratification.

The treaty enshrines the controversial aim of economic and monetary union and calls for the creation of a common foreign and security policy.

Critics, however, have said the inability of the EC to halt the Yugoslav war shows this to be unrealistic.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe told reporters Tuesday that implementation of the treaty should get off the ground as soon as possible now that all states have ratified it.

British Foreign Secretary

Douglas Hurd also said the treaty now must be put properly into effect, but he said the occasion was not one for flights of rhetoric.

"Europe has suffered a lot of rhetoric in the last five or six years. We need now to get on with the things which have to be done," Mr. Hurd said.

He said there was nothing in the treaty that committed the EC to still closer integration in the future, adding that the treaty put the EC on a new track that avoided "steady concentration of power in Brussels."

On foreign policy, the ministers were expected to lay the groundwork for EC leaders to agree on several areas for possible joint action, including supporting the peace process in the Middle East and South Africa and aid to former Yugoslavia.

Ministers were also due to

discuss the progress of seven-year-old negotiations to reach a GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) Uruguay round settlement to liberalise world commerce by a target date of Dec. 15.

The fate of the GATT talks is closely linked to a dispute over a U.S.-EC farm trade agreement curbing subsidised exports which France is vehemently opposing.

French President Francois Mitterrand said in a television interview Monday that he wanted a GATT deal but France would not give in to an American "diktat" on agricultural trade.

One EC diplomat said the whole GATT debate was "political theatre" and that it would not be clear until the final two weeks leading up to the Dec. 15 deadline whether countries were willing to make concessions needed to clinch an agreement.

Russia not to dump again in Japan Sea

TOKYO (R) — Russia will never again dump nuclear waste into the Sea of Japan after the diplomatic storm unleashed by its mid-October sea burial of radioactive waste, the Russian Atomic Energy Minister said Tuesday.

Minister Viktor Mikhailov told a Tokyo news conference: "As for the Sea of Japan, it will never be repeated."

But he refused to say whether Russia would stop dumping in other oceans.

"I can't say any more," he said.

Mr. Mikhailov said Moscow needed foreign financial backing to treat radioactive waste on Russian soil.

He proposed other countries finance the project by buying enriched uranium from the former Soviet Union's nuclear arsenal.

He said he had offered to sell Japan 100 million worth of enriched uranium annually for 20 years but declined to say how Japanese officials responded.

The controversy flared 10 days ago when Russian tankers

dumped 900 cubic metres (32,000 cubic feet) of low-level waste into the sea some 550 kilometres off Japan's coast-line.

The incident infuriated Japanese public opinion, coming as it did less than a week after Russian President Boris Yeltsin's fence-mending visit to Tokyo. During the visit, Russia and Japan had signed an agreement aimed at ending nuclear contamination of the world's oceans.

The Russian dumping also sparked widespread concern.

Christopher presents NATO partnership plan to Belarus

MINSK, Belarus (AFP) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher presented leaders of Belarus Tuesday with a proposal for partnership in NATO, stating that the plan would strengthen the security of the former Soviet Republic.

The United States considers that Belarus can cooperate with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in the area of peacekeeping planning and training and this will provide additional guarantees for its security, Mr. Christopher told a news conference, following one day of talks here.

The Secretary of State, who wrapped up a tour of nuclear states of the former Soviet Union, said the plan would grant Belarus the possibility to consult other NATO member-countries for assistance in defending its sovereignty.

Belarus will be able to call on other member-countries of NATO for consultations if its sovereignty or its territory are threatened, Mr. Christopher said.

He added that Belarus leader Stanislaw Shushkevich and Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich with whom he met during the visit had agreed to examine the proposal approved by NATO defence ministers at a meeting in Germany last week.

Russia Friday welcomed the U.S. plan to expand NATO gradually to former Warsaw Pact countries and one senior official said President Boris Yeltsin had described the proposal as "terrific."

Mr. Yeltsin earlier had sent a letter to Western leaders opposing full NATO membership of East European countries, charging that Russian security interests were at stake.

Under the plan, candidates for NATO partnership would have to commit themselves to NATO standards on issues such as civilian control of the military, force structures, equipment and doctrine.

The plan opening the way to gradual NATO membership is aimed at boosting security and stability in Eastern Europe.

Mr. Christopher praised the Belarus leadership for its commitment to disarmament and to the dismantling of its 81 nuclear missiles in line with the START I agreement and the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The Belarus parliament in February ratified START I and the NPT agreement amid well-publicised resistance by its neighbour, Ukraine, in following suit and becoming a nuclear-free country.

There is no other place in

the world where so many steps have been taken to meet the objectives, set out in the nuclear disarmament treaties, Mr. Christopher said.

The U.S. official Monday signed an agreement with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoly Zlenko on dismantling part of Ukraine's nuclear arsenal but Kiev did not offer any concrete commitment to ratify START I soon.

Mr. Shushkevich confirmed his country's pledge to meet the year 2000 deadline set out in the START I treaty for dismantling the missiles, adding that efforts were currently underway to ensure full compliance.

"The timetable for withdrawing nuclear weapons from Belarus will not exceed seven years," Mr. Shushkevich stated.

Mr. Christopher also offered Belarus technical assistance in organising parliamentary elections scheduled for March, stating that the aid was in line with U.S. efforts to foster democracy in former Soviet republics.

The U.S. official travelled to the Baltic country of Latvia and was expected to raise the issue of minority rights for ethnic Russians during talks with officials there.

'Modern-day Rasputin' gets seven years

LONDON (R) — A British court handed a seven-year jail sentence to a confidence trickster who pretended to be possessed by an American Indian spirit, kept a woman prisoner and tricked her into having sex with him.

Scottman James Finningham, 34, posed as a wealthy psychic, held seances and pretended to speak through the voice of a dead Indian chief, the court heard.

Prince Abdullah in UAE

ABU DHABI (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah bin Al Hussein, president of the Jordanian Football Federation, Tuesday arrived here on a private visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Prince Abdullah was received upon arrival by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Hamdan Ben Zayed Al Nahyan, who is also president of the UAE Soccer Federation, Sheikh Rashed Ben Hamdan, president of Jazirah Sports Club, and the Jordanian ambassador to the UAE.

Prince Abdullah attended a friendly football match held Tuesday night between the Jordanian and UAE national teams.

The UAE national team won the match 2-0.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Karpov rules out unification match

JAKARTA (R) — As Russia's Anatoly Karpov moved within a point of the World Chess Championship, members of his camp dismissed any chance of a unification match with the unofficial world champion, compatriot Garry Kasparov. Karpov drew with Jan Timman of the Netherlands in the 18th game of the World Chess Championship Monday. Kasparov, 30, who captured the world title from Karpov in 1985 but was stripped of it in April, recently completed an unofficial title defence in London and still claims to be the legitimate world champion. Sponsors are thought to be interested in staging a match to decide the true champion. But Karpov, 42, who strongly believes in his normal and legal right to the world title, dismissed the speculation, saying recently: "I am not too interested." Sources close to Karpov were more forthright. "There is no chance of a match between the two in the foreseeable future," said one of Karpov's Russian aides, Oleg Ladichenko. "Relations between the two players are not just bad — there are no relations between the two players."

Federation probes Senna attack

TOKYO (AFP) — World motor sport chief Max Mosley remained tight-lipped here Tuesday over reports that Formula One superstar Ayrton Senna punched rookie driver Eddie Irvine after his Japanese Grand Prix victory. The International Automobile Federation president said he would see an official report on the incident when he returned to federation headquarters in Paris Wednesday. "I can't say anything special until I see an official report," he said. Mosley refused to comment on the Brazilian's attack on Irvine, racing his first Grand Prix for the Jordan Hart team. "I don't really know what has happened. I've only read press reports," he said. John Cornsmit, the federation observer at Suzuka, was expected to file a formal report on the incident which soured Senna's 40th career Grand Prix win. Senna, a three-time world champion, was seen arguing loudly and punching Irvine in the team motor home after the race. Irvine, a Northern Irish regular on Japan's F-3000 circuit, battled wheel-to-wheel with Englishman Damon Hill's Williams Renault, temporarily blocking Senna's attempt to lap them. Irvine later said: "I'm going to sue him."

Substitutes help Benfica to win

LISBON (R) — Two late substitutions helped Benfica come from behind in the final eight minutes and beat Paços de Ferreira 2-1 away Monday. The victory took Benfica into second place in the Portuguese first division, two points behind leaders Sporting and narrowly ahead of third-placed Boavista on goal difference. Croat striker Rudez Thivomir opened the scoring for middle-of-the-table Paços de Ferreira in the 62nd minute, slipping the ball past advancing Benfica keeper Adelino Neno. But 13 minutes before the final whistle Benfica coach Antonio Oliveira replaced defenders Abel Xavier and Antonio Veloso with strikers Sergio Yuran and Ailton Delfino. Within five minutes the pair combined to level the score, Yuran heading the ball down for Delfino to hammer the ball into the net. Joao Pinto scored the winner in the final minute after a goalmouth scramble.

Czechoslovaks must beat Cyprus

PRAGUE (R) — The Czechoslovak team go into Wednesday's World Cup soccer qualifier against Cyprus knowing nothing less than victory will be enough to keep alive their hopes of making next year's finals. Coach Václav Jízek plumps for class and experience in the shape of Tomas Skuhravy, one of the stars of the 1990 World Cup in Italy, Peter Dubovsky, now with Real Madrid, and Lubomir Moravcik, playmaker with St. Etienne in France. "We must play offensively to score as soon as possible in order to calm the team," Jízek said. "We must not stumble, the loss of a single point would be fatal."



Bernard Tapie

Tapie ready to quit

PARIS (AFP) — Beleaguered Olympique Marseille owner Bernard Tapie says he will get out of football as soon as he finds someone to take over his club. "I think it's in the interests of everybody, the club, the fans, the sponsors, TV," he told the sports daily L'Equipe in an interview Tuesday.

"But I won't be blackmailed into leaving," he warned. "It would have been easy to leave when things started going wrong but I'm determined to hold everything together, even if I have to take all the flak."

French Football League President Noel Le Graet has called on Tapie to resign to save France's most successful club.

The football authorities, who publish details of an audit into Marseille's accounts Thursday, could relegate the club to a lower division if it was shown to be insolvent. They handed out similar punishment to Bordeaux, Brest and Toulon in the past two years.

Tapie, who said he wants to concentrate on his political career, dismissed reports of a 400 million franc (\$69 million) deficit.

However, he added: "Four hundred million in liabilities is not 400 million in debts."

He was evidently counting on his assets — his players as Marseille do not own their Velodrome Stadium — to cover the liabilities.

The millionaire businessman said Marseille's real debts amounted to 65 million francs (\$11.2 million). The club's exclusion from the European Cup for their alleged attempt to bribe Valenciennes players to throw a match had caused a shortfall of 100 million francs (\$17.25 million).

To that could be added a 30 million franc (\$5.2 million) overdraft.

"But all that could be erased if I sell two or three players by the end of the season," he said.

He said the \$11 million sale of Alen Boksic to Italian side Lazio left the club needing to find 65 million francs. If local authorities were to claim, Marseille would need to find only 15 million francs (\$2.6 million) which he would put in himself.

If you had listened you would have known I was saying before the European Cup final that the history of great French clubs always finishes badly.

That's why I've felt for more than a year I need to install the same sort of structures as the Italian clubs.

Reins, who played Real Madrid in the first two European Cup finals in the 1950s, went bankrupt. St. Etienne, the next French club to reach the European Cup final, in 1976, have never recovered since tax inspectors discovered they ran a slush fund to pay players like Michel Platini.

5 left in final World Cup gamble

DOHA (Agencies) — Erratic play on the pitch and behind-the-scenes wrangling off it has turned Thursday's Asian World Cup finale into a lottery.

Any two teams from Japan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Iraq and Iran could book a passage to the U.S. finals next year with three games to go.

A lack of consistency that has seen only Japan string together two consecutive wins means only one point separates the top five.

"The current standings has turned our job into a nightmare," admitted one tournament organiser. "With all Thursday's games being played at the same time, we will have to double and triple-check everything before announcing the two qualifiers. It will almost certainly be on goal difference."

Table-toppers Japan play Iraq, second-placed Saudi Arabia take on Iran, while South Korea meet North Korea, the only team who know they cannot qualify.

It was decided to play the games simultaneously in three separate stadiums so no team had the advantage of knowing their rivals' results.

Everyone must go for a win, but each team, except North Korea, faces increasing off the pitch pressure.

Japan, with striker Kazuyoshi Miura back in form, are in the best position after their wins over Iran and South Korea took them from bottom place to top.

Qualification for America is

essential to sustain Japan's campaign to stage the 2002 finals. No team which has never qualified for the World Cup finals has ever staged the event and defeat here could let South Korea take over as frontrunners to Asia's first finals.

Iraq's campaign to embarrass the American hosts of the finals was upset by the replacement of Adnan Derjal as coach after just one game, and by the tournament's worst disciplinary record.

Iraq have had two players sent off and received 10 bookings. They need to win by a big margin against Japan but will be without suspended target man Saad Numan.

At least history is on Iraq's side, as Japan have never beaten them.

Saudi Arabia also have off-the-field problems as they look for a win against Iran.

Coach Jose Candido resigned because of interference from Saudi Federation officials, who include senior members of the royal family, according to officials who witnessed arguing during the Saudi-Iraq game Sunday.

The officials, who requested anonymity, said a telephone call was received from Riyadh ordering the substitution of goalkeeper Mohammed Al Deayea after he let in a first-minute goal.

Candido, one of a long line of Brazilian coaches to manage Saudi Arabia, was heard to say after the keeper came off that the Saudi campaign would go on "without me."

Saudi Arabia's best attacker

Saeed Owairan is suspended for the Iran game at the Khalifa Stadium. One of the officials who heard the arguing Sunday commented: "The new coach Ahmad Al Khrashi is a Saudi so he will need to get 'royal approval' for his selection."

Iran's ageing side has been boosted by the four goals of young striker Ali Daili, who has turned down approaches from Bayern Munich of Germany and Turkish champions Galatasaray. Iran will have Majid Namjou Motlach suspended.

South Korea, who play North Korea, will be playing for the future of their coach Kim Ho as well as a third successive World Cup finals place.

Giving away a last minute goal to Saudi Arabia and losing to Japan has left them in third place after four games. Kim said his players have fitness problems and have not acclimatised to the Qatar heat.

The defeat to Japan, almost as big a rival as the North Koreans, will already have put Kim's job on the line. A win is crucial to save the former South Korean international defender.

North Korean assistant coach Yun Myung Chun said: "We do not have any hope of qualifying but we will not abandon the tournament. We are going to play hard, no-one likes to be a loser."

Meanwhile South Koreans, who have been a major national sport, received with shock the news of their national team's 1-0 defeat to Japan.

"It's a second National Humiliation Day," the national Yonhap News Agency said in a dispatch from Doha, equating the defeat to Japan's takeover of Korea in 1910 as a colony. That day is remembered by many Koreans as a National Humiliation Day.

"(We) lost to Japan in every sense, in skills, teamwork, fighting spirit," Yonhap said. Millions of South Koreans stayed up until after midnight to watch the game televised live. On Tuesday, the defeat was a major topic among morning commuters and office workers.

The loss was especially galling because South Korea has always dominated Japan in soccer. It had 42 wins, 13 draws and only seven defeats to Japan before Monday and had never lost to Japan in World Cup competition.

But this time, Japan controlled most of the match and penetrated the Korean defence almost at will.

"It was a nightmare to see a match like that," Yonhap said. "The match was like competition between a pro team and an early morning neighbourhood team."

The state KBS Television said, "We all were taken aback to see such a shameful match. There was no strategy, no will to fight."

The South Korean media blamed team manager Kim Ho for the defeat, accusing him of disrupting teamwork by assigning some players to the wrong position.

Crown lies uneasy on European basketball champions

LONDON (R) — Europe's club basketball season moves into top gear this week with the crown already lying uneasy on the heads of last season's surprise champions Limoges.

The French have been in poor form since clinching the title in Athens in April and much is expected from newcomer Danny Young, an experienced player with 567 matches in the NBA.

Currently fourth in the French League, Limoges disappointed in the high-profile Munich International Tournament won by the NBA's Phoenix Suns Saturday.

They lost the third place playoff to Real Madrid despite a handsome 30 points from Limoges other American Young, Michael, the architect of their Athens victory over Benetton Treviso.

Barcelona have three new

Limoges start the semifinal series Thursday with a tough match in Barcelona and may be without playmaker Frederic Forte, who hurt his ankle in Munich.

"We're still chasing our best form and we might find it difficult against Barcelona, especially if Frederic can't play," said Limoges player Richard Dacoury.

"Danny Young should help us a lot. From what I saw in Munich, he's just the kind of player we need but he will probably need time to adapt."

Barcelona start their campaign with their tails up. Top of the Spanish League with eight wins from nine matches, they have beaten both Real Madrid and Spain's third European League candidate Joventut Badalona.

Barcelona have three new

American players in their ranks, pivot Fred Roberts, former Milwaukee Bucks player Denis Williams and Tony Massemburg.

But big rivals Real Madrid, unceremoniously bounced out of the final four series by Limoges in Athens, once again start title favourites.

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH
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AVOID THE TROUBLE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A 10 6
♥ Q 3
♦ Q J 10 8 6
♣ A Q 3

EAST
♠ Q 8 3
♥ J 8 5 4
♦ A K 10 9 6 2
♣ A 5 2

SOUTH
♠ K J 9 7 5 2
♥ 7
♦ K 3 2
♣ A 10 4

The bidding:
South West North East
Pass Pass 1 1
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠ 3
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of
Follow the play of this hand, then judge South's ability. Was declarer an expert, an average player or a beginner?

It might seem that South's jump to four spades was something of a stretch, but that's not really the case. North could not have much waste in hearts, so not only was there a good trump suit, but South's king in opener's suit had to be upgraded and the club honors would

nearly well with any holding in the North hand.
West led a heart to East's king and declarer ruffed the ace continuation. When the ace and king of spades did not bring down the queen, declarer started on diamonds. West took the ace immediately and shifted to a club, and there was no way declarer could avoid losing a trick in each suit — down one. What's your opinion?

Regardless of whether the game was rubber bridge or duplicate, South deserves no more than an average rating. At rubber bridge, there's an obvious avoidance play to secure the contract. After ruffing the heart, declarer should cash the king of spades and continue with a spade to the ten. If the finesse wins, declarer will make 11 tricks. If it loses, the club suit is safe from attack and declarer can establish the diamonds for two club discards from hand, thereby avoiding a club loser.

At duplicate, South should realize that, with only 23 high-card points in the North-South holding, some pairs would not bid the game. Therefore, simply nailing down 10 tricks would insure a good score and the avoidance play again should have been taken.

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U.S. Jewish team ends visit saying Jordan is committed to peace

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An American Jewish delegation ended a two-day visit to Jordan Tuesday, saying it found a firm Jordanian commitment to the Middle East peace process, but with little success in influencing the Kingdom to dilute its commitment to the Arab boycott of Israel before a peace settlement is reached with the Jewish state.

Robert Lifton, president of the American Jewish Congress (AJC) and leader of the delegation which included businessmen, however, described as highly valuable a meeting the 10-member team had with a group of Jordanian businessmen at the Chamber of Industry Tuesday.

"We opened the door for contacts and communications on a personal basis," Mr. Lifton told the Jordan Times shortly before the delegation left by road to cross the River Jordan.

"The Jordanian businessmen promised that they would seek means for cooperation with American firms" which are now denied entry to the Arab market under the secondary part of the boycott because of their business links with Israel, he said.

Before the meeting, Mr. Lifton said the delegation would discuss "the kind of things that could be done in the region and how they could be accomplished and what kind of infrastructure exists for them and the best way to do them."

"The idea is to cut through politics and arrive at issues that directly concern business," he added.

By and large, Mr. Lifton said after the meeting, "we found a firm commitment and tremendous interest on the part of the Jordanian leadership and Jordanians to the peace process."

His Majesty King Hussein met with the delegation Monday and reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to seeking a comprehensive solution to the Middle East conflict through the two-year-old U.S.-backed peace negotiations.

Jordan's position, officials explained, is that the issue of the boycott of Israel was part of the conflict and the measure was adopted by the Arab League, and, as such, the Kingdom cannot adopt any unilateral move in this respect.

Once the root of the conflict is removed and an Arab-Israeli peace settlement is reached then the issue of boycott could be discussed, they say.

Furthermore, Israel cannot hope to enjoy any lifting of the boycott while it maintains the occupied territories as a monopoly by imposing its own controls over goods entering the Palestinian market, they explain.

Mr. Lifton emphasised that his group's role was "not to tell anyone what to do, but to raise the point that the secondary boycott and the anti-boycott legislation" had a negative bearing on American firms doing business with the Arab World.

American laws bar U.S. firms from complying with the requirements of the Arab Boycott of Israel Office. The requirements include certificates of origin and other compliance documents. In theory, without these documents the goods will not be allowed into the Arab countries.

But U.S. companies issue the documents then they are subject to prosecution and heavy fines imposed by the U.S. government.

Mr. Lifton stressed that an improved climate was essential to encourage U.S. companies to do business with the Arab World.

"We explained that the secondary boycott might end being counterproductive to the very thing that everyone wanted, that is investment in the Middle East in order to improve the living standards and quality of life of the people of the region," he told the Jordan Times.

"This is what we told (Egyptian) President Hosni Mubarak and (Palestine Liberation Organisation) Chairman Yasser Arafat," he said.

In Dubai, a senior PLO official said Monday it was prema-

ture for Arabs to lift the economic boycott of Israel.

"It is early now to speak of lifting the Arab boycott," Hakam Balawi, a close aide to Mr. Arafat, was quoted as saying by Reuters in a Dubai-dispatched dispatch.

"This decision requires a unanimous vote by the Arab League (Ministerial Council) when comprehensive peace is achieved," he added.

The American Jewish delegation, which arrived here from Saudi Arabia Monday, began its visit in Cairo, where it met with President Mubarak and Mr. Arafat, who flew there from Tunis for the meeting. Immediately after talks with U.S. envoy Dennis Ross last week.

Asked how the group viewed a Jordanian call on the American Jewish community to use its political influence to ensure a comprehensive, just and durable Middle East settlement is reached, Mr. Lifton said:

"There is an overwhelming support among the American Jewish community for the peace process and we will remain actively engaged in supporting and encouraging it."

But, he added, "we have to leave the specifics to the parties directly involved in the (negotiating) process. There is a firm commitment to peace from the government of Israel."

The delegation, which represents a cross-section of American Jewish leaders including a woman, former attorney-general-designate Zoe Baird, apparently did not make much headway with the Saudis either in its quest to end the secondary boycott.

Saudi leaders told the team that their country supported the peace process but did not indicate what they intended to do in response to the call for an end to the ban on firms trading with Israel.

"We made the point that steps should be taken, signals given, that would encourage the Israelis," Mr. Lifton said. But the delegation heard "no affirmation of what the Saudis would do."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli, Palestinian aid groups meet

LONDON (AP) — The presidents of Israeli and Palestinian emergency aid groups met in England on Monday during an international conference of the national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies. David Barzilai, head of Israel's Red Shield of David organisation, and Fathi Arafat, president of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, held a meeting "marked by an atmosphere of mutual trust and understanding" according to a news release from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. At the meeting in Birmingham, the two men stated their "firm intent" to develop relations between their institutions in several areas, it said. The federation groups all the national societies worldwide and tries to coordinate natural disaster relief appeals. The Israeli society is not yet a member of the organisation, and its presence at the gathering indicate it is on the way to membership.

Convicted murderer hanged in Damascus

DAMASCUS (AP) — A Syrian man, convicted of triple murder and theft, was hanged in a public square early Tuesday. The government newspaper Tishrin identified the convict as Yassin Al Hafi, 36. It said Hafi, armed with a pistol, stormed into a pharmacy in Lebanon's border town of Anjar on Dec. 21, 1992, shot the owner and her assistant to death and fled back to Syria after stealing their money and jewelry. The owner of the pharmacy was identified as Nazla Hamza and her assistant as Huda Al Ajami. Both were Lebanese. On Jan. 26, he escorted a friend, Ibrahim Fattah, to an apartment building in the Yarmouk district of Damascus where Fattah was buying a flat. On the staircase, he hacked Fattah with an axe he had hidden under his clothes, robbed him of 250,000 pounds (\$6,000) and fled in the victim's car. Fattah bled to death. Hafi was arrested two months later after the building's landlord testified he had seen him enter the building with Fattah. During interrogation, he confessed to murdering the women.

Eitan running for prime minister

TEL AVIV (AP) — Right-wing politician Rafael Eitan, the army's chief of staff during the 1982 Lebanon invasion, announced Tuesday he was running for prime minister. Mr. Eitan, 64, speaking at a news conference, called for moving up the elections because of the Sept. 13 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord which he opposes. His Tsomet party objects to dialogue with the group. The next election scheduled for 1996, will be Israel's first in which the premier is elected directly. By the old system, by which Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was chosen in 1992, a prime minister had to negotiate for a parliament majority. Mr. Eitan's candidacy is likely to harm electoral chances for Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of the opposition Likud party, by splitting the right-wing vote.

Israeli trade team to visit India

NEW DELHI (AFP) — A high-powered Israeli trade delegation is to visit India in January as a follow-up to a proposal to grant most favoured nation trading (MFN) status to each other, the Israeli embassy said Tuesday. The trade team, comprising officials from 40 Israeli firms, will tour the country to discuss tie-ups, cooperation and technology transfer, counsellor for economic affairs Sami Ofri said. A combination of India's cheap and skilled manpower and Israel's advanced technology would benefit both sides, he said, adding that more than 12 Israeli companies had decided to set up manufacturing bases in India. There was vast potential in the farm and drug sectors, Mr. Ofri added.

Mubarak: Egypt safest place on Earth

WASHINGTON (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said that politically motivated violence in Egypt was declining and his country had become the safest place on Earth. "The violence is going down now, and our country is much more safer than any other place in the world," he said in an interview broadcast Tuesday on the ABC news programme "Good Morning America." Mr. Mubarak, whose comments were taped Monday after he met President Bill Clinton at the White House, said Egypt still needed the United States to maintain current aid levels to fund development projects. "We hope that the level of aid can continue because we're going through an economic reform, which needs the support of the United States." "Any sharp cuts would create problems for Egypt," he said.

Lebanese ex-servicemen get rise in pensions

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese parliament passed a law increasing army pensions on Tuesday in a bid to defuse a dispute with the military command. The army command, angered by parliament's failure to raise pensions in an Oct. 12 session, next day pulled soldiers off checkpoints where they reinforced police searching cars and checking motorists papers under a campaign to impose civil order. It was not immediately known if the army would now reverse its order. Troops still man permanent checkpoints around army bases, Beirut airport and Palestinian refugee camps. The 40,000-strong army is trying to bring order to Lebanon after 15 years of civil war which ended in 1990. State Minister for Finance Fuad Siniora said the increased pensions would cost the treasury 31 billion Lebanese pounds (\$18 million) in 1993.

3 Israeli soldiers wounded in shelling

MARJAYOUN (AFP) — Three Israeli soldiers were wounded Tuesday when their position was shelled in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon, security officials said. Several mortar shells hit Sojoud, on the edge of the zone's central sector, and an adjacent position occupied by Israel's proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA). Israeli artillery gunners retaliated by pounding the village of Tufah hills, a stronghold of Hizbollah guerrillas near the port city of Sidon. Lebanese police gave no immediate report of casualties. On Monday, three Katyusha rockets and seven mortar shells were fired at the SLA in Sojoud but missed their targets, security officials said.

Police use tear-gas at Kashmiri protest

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani police fired tear-gas Tuesday to disperse about 300 Kashmiri separatists protesting against the arrest of their leader in Belgium last week. The militants of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) gathered on the outskirts of Islamabad to march on the Belgian embassy to deliver a letter protesting the arrest in Brussels on Oct. 18 of visiting leader Amanullah Khan. Hundreds of police opened fire with tear-gas to disperse the crowd, forcing them back toward Islamabad's twin city of Rawalpindi. "Two Satans are enemies of Kashmir — India and Pakistan," the separatists shouted. They hurled stones at police, set fire to a police van and smashed the windows of cars and buses at the busy junction just outside Islamabad.

Iraq to restore satellite links with Asia

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq is set to restore its satellite links with South East Asian countries, India, Pakistan, and Australia, the telecommunications chief said Tuesday. Ghassan Abdul Razzak Al Aani, quoted in Baghdad newspapers, said repairs at the Dajail satellite station which was badly damaged in the 1991 Gulf war had almost been completed. Iraq plans to restore telephone, telex and audiovisual links via an Indian satellite connected to Dajail, 80 kilometres north of Baghdad, he said. Mr. Aani said Baghdad was to contact Intelsat, the organisation in charge of international communications, to seek authorisation for Dajail to go back in service. In July, the Iraqi authorities announced plans to beam television programmes abroad via satellite.

Kuwaiti leaders see continuing Iraqi threat

KUWAIT (Agencies) —

Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah said Tuesday Iraq was looking for a chance to re-invade Kuwait.

Sheikh Saad spoke at a parliament session marking the end of the legislature's summer recess.

"The danger that threatens our dear country is still there... waiting for another chance," he said. "I'm not saying that to exaggerate or terrorise... I'm just stating facts and carrying out my duty."

He made no suggestion as to how Kuwait could counter the threat. But the emirate has signed 10-year defence pacts with the United States, Britain and France since the Gulf war.

The three nations were key contributors to the coalition that evicted the Iraqi army from Kuwait in February 1991, ending a seven-month occupation of the emirate.

Sheikh Saad said Iraq had yet to recognise the new border drawn by the United Nations after the crisis. The line placed 11 oil wells from Iraq's Rumailah oil field in Kuwait

territory. It also gave Kuwait Iraq's naval base at Umm Qasr.

The crown prince said another cause for concern was Baghdad's failure to release over 700 Kuwaitis and other nationals arrested during the occupation. Iraq denies it holds any prisoners of war.

Sheikh Saad said Kuwait was willing to "forgive" Arab states that remained sympathetic to Iraq during the war, provided their governments declare support for the post-war U.N. resolutions related to the conflict and call on Iraq to comply with them.

The resolutions demand among other things that Iraq's stock and ability to provide weapons of mass destruction be dismantled, that Baghdad pay war reparations and recognise the new border.

"As for those who still insist on their blind support for the Iraqi regime against Kuwait... the Kuwaiti people will never forget their wrongdoing or surpass their shameful stances," Sheikh Saad said.

Opposition claims revolt continuing at Libya bases

CAIRO (AP) — A Libyan army rebellion that the country's air force tried to quell last week spread and may be continuing in at least five bases, exiled opposition leaders asserted Tuesday.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has been in power since 1969 and the military is believed the only force capable of dislodging him. It was unclear whether the reported revolt constituted a coup attempt or a mutiny over service conditions.

The Libyan embassy in Cairo denied there was either. An embassy official referred a question to a statement from the government in Tripoli that said nothing out of the ordinary has happened.

Inside Libya, the government declared Tuesday a day of mourning and severed links with the outside for 12 hours to commemorate thousands of Libyans' expulsion by Italian occupation forces 52 years ago. Observations included detonating land mines allegedly left by Italian colonisers, transmitting only black-and-white television

programmes and turning off street lights at night.

Western diplomats in the Libyan capital and opposition leaders abroad reported last week that the air force put down on Oct. 17-18 revolt by army units in Misratah and Bani Walid in eastern Libya. They said many officers were executed and arrested.

But on Tuesday Abdul Hamid Bakoush, a former Libyan prime minister who is a political refugee in Cairo, said the rebels maintained control of those bases by late Monday.

After the air force attacked the two camps, the protests spread to at least three others, Mr. Bakoush said. He named them as Al Zawiyah, 50 kilometres west of Tripoli, and Tarhuna, about 50 kilometres south of Tripoli, where Colonel Qadhafi reportedly is building a clandestine chemical weapons plant (see page 2).

"The mutineers are still in control. It has not been liquidated," he told the Associated Press. "The government is not attacking them now, and it looks like there may be negotiations going on."

Denktash: Commonwealth destroyed agreement basis

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash said Tuesday the basis for a settlement of the Cyprus problem was destroyed by the final communiqué of the Commonwealth summit.

Mr. Denktash said the reference to Cyprus in the final communiqué "is biased because it was adopted without hearing the Turkish Cypriot side and does not conform to the principles of justice."

The communiqué was approved unanimously on Monday by the 47 leaders of the association of Britain and its former dependencies attending the five-day biennial summit in the coastal city of Limassol.

Mr. Denktash told a news conference in the Turkish-

Cypriot sector of the divided capital that the communiqué showed President Glafcos Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader, "has no intention to come to terms with the Turkish Cypriots."

"The communiqué has destroyed the basis for any agreement," he said.

The communiqué demanded the speedy withdrawal of the estimated 35,000 Turkish troops and 50,000 mainland settlers from the Turkish-occupied north of the island. It also demanded the return of the 180,000 Greek Cypriot refugees to their homes in the north.

U.N. Security Council resolutions demand the withdrawal of "foreign" troops and settlers, without a direct reference to Turkish troops.

Released cadet testifies in State Security Court

AMMAN (Petra) — A military cadet Tuesday told the State Security Court he was among those detained for a while for questioning in an assassination plot against His Majesty King Hussein but that he was not exposed to beating or any other form of torture throughout his detention.

The cadet, whose name was withheld by the court, said he was visited once every two weeks in prison by a female representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and that the meals that he received in prison were good and the same as those offered to members of the Armed Forces.

The cadet, who was a student at the Police Academy of Muta University, told the court that he had abandoned his study there in 1992 in order to enter a religious college.

He said that he was arrested on April 27, 1993, on suspicion that he belonged to a banned political organisation and that carried out sabotage activities inside the university. He said he was released on Aug. 12, 1993.

At the outset of Tuesday's session, lawyers for the third defendant presented a written memo to the court, presided over by Colonel Hafez Amin, in which the defendant asked to change one paragraph in his earlier testimony to the court or that the court retry him.

Objecting to the motion, Prosecutor Major Mohammad Hijazi said the request contradicted the facts. He said the defendant's testimony showed contradiction between those of two defence witnesses, namely the third defendant's uncle and his brother.

Major Hijazi also said that there could be no retrial after the defendant had given his testimony and was cross-examined in court.

The court rejected the defence request saying that there was no justification for hearing the defendant again.

Ten people are being tried by the court on charges of plotting to open fire at King Hussein and for plotting to topple the government and affiliation to an illegal organisation, Hezb Al Tahrir Al Islami.

COLUMN

Now it's Mao the rock star

Beijing (R) — Chairman Mao's image no longer adorns every room in China but it still turns up in some unlikely places. The latest is a natural rock formation reachable only by boat inside the Lazeng Cave in southern Guangxi province, the Guangxi Daily said in editions reaching Beijing Tuesday. It was said to be found by journalists touring the cave. "They discovered a rock about a dozen metres (39 feet) high that looks almost exactly like a half-length Mao Tseung statue, with his hair combed back and a broad forehead," the newspaper said. Only two months ago, the southern province of Hainan trumpeted the discovery of an entire mountain which Mao's daughter Lin Na reportedly proclaimed was a "perfect likeness" of him lying on his back. It may be less than coincidence that natural likenesses of the great helmsman are turning up in 1993, which would have been Mao's 100th birthday. He died in 1976. Entrepreneurs hoping to cash in on the anniversary have been trying to ignite a nationwide Mao Nostalgia craze before the Dec. 26 centennial. Hainan officials said they would promote "Old Mao Mountain" as a tourist attraction.

U.S. cab drivers most at risk for being slain

ATLANTA (AP) — People who drive or dispatch taxicabs were most at risk for being murdered on the job during the 1980s, U.S. safety officials reported. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health said 7,603 people were murdered on the job in the United States from 1980 through 1989 — an average of nearly 15 people a week. Homicide was the leading cause of workplace death for women and the third leading cause of on-the-job deaths for all workers, the agency reported. Motor vehicle accidents were the top cause of death in the workplace and machine-related accidents were second. Taxicabs and taxi dispatch offices topped the list for most dangerous workplaces with 26.9 of every 100,000 workers murdered during the decade — almost 40 times the national on-the-job rate of 0.7 per 100,000 workers. Cab drivers and chauffeurs were listed as the riskiest jobs, with a rate of 15.1 deaths per 100,000. This year in New York City, where about 50,000 cabs cruise the streets, 32 cabbies have been murdered on the job. "This is the most dangerous job in the city and no one besides the drivers seems to care," said Kenny Arthur, spokesman for Affiliated Livy Drivers and Owners in New York, a trade association. After taxicabs and dispatch offices, other risky workplaces were liquor stores, where 8 of every 100,000 workers was slain; gas stations, 5.6; detective agencies, 5; courthouses; prisons-police and fire departments, 3.4; grocery stores, 3.2; jewelry stores, 3.2; hotels; motels, 1.5; and restaurants, 1.5.

Survey describes best U.S. campuses — for fun

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — In this U.S. survey of the "best colleges ever," Yale, Johns Hopkins and Chicago didn't make the top 10 — they barely made the top 300. That's because, as the young editors of an irreverent publication for college-age men put it, those schools may excel in academics, but they "rot" when it comes to having fun. The pollsters emphasise that the best party schools aren't necessarily scholastic zeroes; their survey simply focuses on "the fun factor." The unsentimental poll appears in Inside Edge, a national magazine produced by students from Boston-area colleges, including Harvard, which was No. 122 on the list. Using reports from 50 student correspondents nationwide, Inside Edge graded America's 300 largest coed universities on nine criteria ranging from the bar and club scene to sports. The magazine's November issue lists the top 20 and worst 10. "The things we rate are things that make the schools fun to go to," said publisher Aaron Shapiro.

Clan war rages in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — United Nations peacekeepers stayed on the sidelines as rival clans battled across Mogadishu for a second day on Tuesday, U.N. officials said.

About 50 Somalis have been wounded in the two days of fighting, they said. At least 10 people were killed in a clash on the green line dividing the capital on Monday.

Battles had now spread to three sections of the city.

The fighting is the most serious between clans in Mogadishu for several months although 70 at least of foreign soldiers and hundreds of Somalis have been killed since June in an undeclared war between the U.N. peacekeeping mission and General Mohammed Farah Aided's militia.

U.N. officials stressed that U.N. troops would not inter-

vene although contacts had been made with clan elders to halt the clashes.

"We're still hopeful that the inter-clan violence will subside and we will be able to get back to dialogue," said U.N. military spokesman Captain Tim McDavitt.

There was a possibility that U.S. President Bill Clinton's special envoy Robert Oakley might return to Mogadishu to try to start peace talks, the spokesman said, but he was unable to confirm it.

scattered heavy machine gun and small arms fire could be heard in several neighbourhoods.

By nightfall the fighting had largely subsided. But sporadic gunfire and the thump of occasional rifle-propelled grenade blasts still resounded through

Mogadishu's otherwise calm streets.

The fighting erupted when Aided's gunmen stopped a "peace march" into their territory from an enclave controlled by Gen. Aided's enemy, self-styled President Ali Mahdi Muhammad.

Mr. Ali Mahdi rejected frantic U.N. requests to call off the march because Gen. Aided's gunmen had threatened to fire on the demonstrators, he urged U.N. forces to protect them.

It was the first major battle in 19 months between the two warring groups whose vicious power struggle reduced much of central Mogadishu to rubble before U.S.-led forces landed in December.

Lansana Kouyate, the deputy U.N. chief in Somalia, met Mr. Ali Mahdi on Tuesday.

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